



ESTABLISHED 1859.

Subscription: Fourpence a Week, Ten Shillings a Year.  
Summer and Winter Numbers, 1/- per Copy.

Remittances Payable to EDWARD HALSE.  
Postal Orders and Cheques to be crossed "MARTIN'S BANK (LIMITED)."

CHIEF OFFICES: 42 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.

BRANCH OFFICES: 231 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE.  
AND 114A PITT STREET, SYDNEY.

THIS JOURNAL is regularly supplied by subscription to the  
whole of the Members of TWELVE PHARMACEUTICAL  
SOCIETIES in the British Empire.

## CONTENTS: Vol. LI. No. 22.

	PAGE		PAGE
At the Counter .....	843	Editorial Comments (cont.) :-	
Bankruptcies and Failures .....	829	Prescriptions .....	836
Business Changes .....	830	Indigo-blue .....	836
Colonial and Foreign News .....	820	Notes .....	837
Coming Events .....	856	English News .....	815
Correspondence :-		French News .....	818
The Registrar Explains; The		General Medical Council .....	838
P.A.T.A. Controversy .....	849	Irish News .....	817
Shall Chemists Cease to Sell		Legal Reports .....	828
Patent Medicines? .....	850	Marriages .....	830
The Still-lcence; Hospital		New Companies and Company	
Dispensing; The Poet Ex-		News .....	826
plains; Dr. Lucas .....	851	P.A.T.A. Meetings .....	827
Jubilee of Anaesthesia; The		Personalities .....	830
Surgical-Instrument Busi-		Reviews .....	839
ness in Canada .....	852	Scotch News .....	818
Dispensing Notes .....	853	Socialities .....	825
Legal Queries .....	854	South African News .....	819
Miscellaneous Inquiries .....	854	Students' Corner .....	814
Information Supplied .....	856	Tabs .....	820
Information Wanted .....	856	The Future Pharmacy Bill:	
Deaths .....	830	Meetings at Bristol, Notting-	
Deeds of Arrangement .....	829	ham, and Sheffield .....	840
Editorial Comments :-		Town Traveller .....	831
The Bloomsbury Bill .....	834	Trade Notes .....	843
Suppositories .....	835	Trade Reports .....	843
		Winter Session .....	821

## OUR DIARY FOR 1898.

THE foreign edition of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS DIARY for 1898 goes by this week's mails. The home copies will be distributed as soon as possible afterwards, carriage paid everywhere. If any payment is demanded, it should be made, a receipt taken and sent to us, when we shall refund. The treatise on the art of pharmacy which will be a leading feature of this DIARY, will contain much new information never before published, and from beginning to end will be found to be of great practical value to all pharmacists. The reference information is fuller and more complete than ever, and the advertisements will be found to be a wonderfully varied and comprehensive collection. These are contributed by 561 different firms, and all the goods advertised are carefully indexed. This number of advertisers exceeds by 30 our previous record, which was the DIARY for 1897. It is impossible to imagine any chemist and druggist to whom such an encyclopedia of information will not be useful occasionally, and most chemists will refer to it "every day and all the year round." A subscription to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, which is in force in the month of December, entitles the subscriber to a free copy of this work, which will be sent to him carriage or postage free in any part of the earth. Extra copies can be had by subscribers for 2s. 6d. Non-subscribers (if they are chemists) can get copies for 3s. 6d.



THE CHEMISTS' CLUB in London is to move West (p. 816).  
CURIOUS AUTOGRAPH PRESCRIPTIONS are printed on p. 836.

A WOMAN DIED in a chemist's shop at Bristol the other day (p. 816).

SUCCESSFUL P.A.T.A. MEETINGS have been held at Derby, Leeds, and Scarborough (p. 827).

THE MANCHESTER CORONER objects to reports of suicides as stimulating others to the same end (p. 816).

SOME NOTES FROM THE CAPE are given on p. 819, and a picture of the first pharmacy in Johannesburg.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE on the proprietary-medicine trade from both sides is given this week (p. 849).

A HINT to those who want to learn French and French pharmacy in France is given by our Paris correspondent (p. 819).

A MOTION in respect to infringement of the saccharin patents has been brought before Mr. Justice Romer (p. 828).

THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE NEW BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA will be presented to the General Medical Council this session (p. 838).

IN THE STUDENTS' CORNER is a useful hint regarding the detection of citrates, and how carbonic-acid gas may spoil the test (p. 814).

SOME REMARKS ON SUPPOSITORY MOULDS and the advantages of the cold process for making suppositories are printed on p. 835.

MR. W. J. DIBDIN, the retiring L.C.C. chemist, has been entertained to dinner, and presented with an address by his late staff (p. 816).

THE PRESENT PRODUCTION of caustic soda, bleach, and chlorate of potash by the Castner-Kellner electrolytic process is mentioned on p. 842.

AN INTERESTING CASE in regard to camphorated oil has opened at Dudley. An oil half the strength of lin. camphoræ was sold (p. 829).

A DISPENSER denies that 100 prescriptions can be dispensed per hour, and claims better recognition for the hospital pharmacist (p. 851).

OUR TOWN TRAVELLER contributes some notes on things that are to be seen in City warehouses just now, and reports that business is brisk (p. 831).

A CANADIAN FIRM communicate some interesting particulars regarding business in surgical instruments which are instructive to English makers (p. 852).

SYNTHETIC INDIGO has been put on the market by the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, and Dr. Koppeschaar says it is a highly purified natural indigo (p. 836).

AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION in regard to a reaction between magnesia and cupric sulphate was heard at the Chemical Society last week, and is reported on p. 826.

BIRMINGHAM ASSISTANTS have discussed the possibility of standardisation, and did not think there is much hope for it, considering how bad percentage and other solutions are (p. 821).

MEETINGS OF CHEMISTS, held in Bristol, Nottingham, and Sheffield, on Wednesday evening, adopted resolutions regarding the one-clause Pharmacy Bill (p. 823). We refer to these proposals on p. 834.

MR. BREMIDGE defends his course of procedure in revising the Pharmaceutical Register, and shows that his publication of the list of names to be removed is an assistance to the trade which he is not required to give (p. 849).





CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.C.S., F.I.C.

#### REPORTS.

THE powder sent to our correspondents for analysis last month consisted of three parts of calcium carbonate, one part of barium acetate and one part of magnesium acetate. The calculated composition of such a mixture is—

Ba ... ..	10.74
Ca ... ..	24.00
Mg ... ..	3.38
CO <sub>2</sub> ... ..	36.00
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ... ..	25.88
	100.00

Traces of iron, sulphuric acid and chlorine were present.

Portions of the powder were sent to 78 applicants, and reports of analyses were received from 49 students. The failures in the detection of the several constituents were: Barium, 3; calcium, 3; magnesium, 9; acetic acid, 19. Three detected merely a trace of barium, and one merely a trace of acetic acid. The number of substances erroneously reported as present was rather large. Nine students concluded that one of the salts in the mixture was a citrate, and two that a tartrate was a constituent. Strontium in quantity was reported present by five students, and as a trace by five others. The other substances reported present in quantity were lithium, potassium, sodium, aluminium, iron, boric, nitric phosphoric, sulphuric and formic acids.

Several of the reports received show a large amount of experimental work, and very little reflection on the results obtained. We do not suggest that our contributors should experiment less, but that they should reason a little more.

When ammonia in excess was added to an acid solution of the original powder no precipitate was produced. Bearing in mind that barium, calcium and magnesium were present, it was manifest that phosphoric acid was not a constituent, because the phosphates of those metals are insoluble in alkaline liquids. For the same reason a tartrate could not have been present; and as warming the ammoniacal solution caused no precipitation it was further evident that a citrate could not be present. This experiment was tried by several students who failed to appreciate its significance. Others had not the opportunity of arriving at any conclusion as regards the organic acids, because they had very properly removed organic matter by ignition before adding ammonia to an acid solution of the powder. It is remarkable that so many students failed to notice the odour of acetic acid which the powder possessed in its original state. Even when the powder was treated with an acid, and acetic acid was copiously evolved, it escaped detection by the sense of smell. This is all the more remarkable when it is considered that acetic acid is of such common occurrence; it is the only acid almost universally used in the free state as an article of diet—in every kind of vinegar the predominant odour is that of acetic acid.

In applying the ferric-chloride test for acetic acid several of our correspondents failed because of the presence of either free acid or free alkali. The solution to be tested and the solution of ferric chloride must be neutral.

The detection of a citrate in several cases is explained in the following way:—A solution was prepared by boiling

some of the powder with a solution of sodium carbonate. After filtering off the insoluble residue, an acid was added to decompose the carbonate, and when effervescence had ceased ammonia was added to neutralise the acid. It was now found that on adding calcium chloride there was no change, but on warming the solution a precipitate separated, and it was assumed that this must be calcium citrate. A further examination of the precipitate would have shown it to consist of calcium carbonate. There was not enough carbonate present to cause an immediate precipitate, but just enough to produce a precipitate on warming. The presence of the carbonate arose from the fact that the carbon dioxide evolved when an acid was added to the sodium-carbonate solution was not completely expelled from the liquid and from the test-tube. On adding ammonia, this carbon dioxide combined with it, forming a small quantity of ammonium carbonate, sufficient to produce the effect referred to. Even so small a quantity as 10 c.c. of carbon dioxide, a quantity which might readily remain in a test-tube or beaker, would yield as much ammonium carbonate as would be contained in two or three drops of the ordinary solution of that salt. When care was taken to completely expel carbon dioxide before adding ammonia the solution did not yield a precipitate with calcium chloride either in the cold or on warming.

#### PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to ARTHUR E. BEESTON, c/o Messrs. Fuller & Co., Rampant Horse Street, Norwich.

The Second Prize has been awarded to OSWALD V. BLACKBURN (Van-de-burke), c/o Mr. A. H. Cleland, 180 High Road, Leytonstone, N.E.

#### MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

A. E. Beeston (1st prize)...	100	Nil Prodest ... ..	80
O. V. Blackburn (2nd prize)...	99	Q. S. O. P. ... ..	80
Galen ... ..	97	Novice ... ..	79
C. J. Packham ... ..	95	Ellen Fish ... ..	79
Davegemel ... ..	95	Yttrium ... ..	78
Lux ... ..	95	H. F. ... ..	77
R. T. S. ... ..	94	L. M. B. ... ..	76
A. C. Pyecroft ... ..	93	A. C. C. ... ..	76
Glycol ... ..	92	Turps ... ..	76
Sepia ... ..	92	Lignum ... ..	75
Bunsen ... ..	90	C. C. D. D. ... ..	75
J. M. ... ..	90	Inula ... ..	75
B. O. B. ... ..	90	Platinum ... ..	72
Dover ... ..	90	T. H. H. F. ... ..	70
Africanus ... ..	89	Tragacanth ... ..	68
Pilula ... ..	88	Carbonaceous ... ..	67
A. W. Jones ... ..	87	Vix ... ..	65
Acetylene ... ..	87	Veritas ... ..	63
B. C. ... ..	86	Robert Graham ... ..	62
Cascara ... ..	85	B. M. P. ... ..	60
R. P. ... ..	85	Black ... ..	57
Huxham ... ..	83	Parmelia ... ..	55
Ctenophora ... ..	82	O. W. L. ... ..	52
A. J. B. ... ..	82	Pharmacon ... ..	50
Lyra ... ..	81		

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Prizes.*—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

A special prize, consisting of Mendeleef's "Chemistry" (2 vols.) and a certificate of honour, will be awarded to the student who obtains most marks in the six months ending April, 1898. Second and third prizes may also be given.

*Note.*—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

R. T. S.—Your supposed trace of a tartrate was almost certainly a carbonate.

GLYCOL.—Repeating the ferrous-sulphate test for nitric acid, we could not detect a coloured ring; the effects of difference of



refraction at the juncture of the light and dense liquids were likely to mislead.

SEPIE AND BUNSEN.—See remarks to "Glycol."

J. M.—Of course the residue obtained on evaporating part of the solution in which you detected magnesium gave the flame-colouration of sodium—a sufficient quantity of sodium to produce this effect is sure to be present. The important point to note is whether any appreciable quantity of a sodium salt remained when the magnesium had been removed.

DOVER.—The platinum-chloride test for potassium should not have been applied to the aqueous extract of the original powder; the residual solution from which all the metals, except the alkali metals, had been removed was the proper solution to examine, after ammonium salts had been expelled.

AFRICANUS.—The solution prepared by boiling the powder with sodium carbonate and then adding nitric acid in excess, or a nitric-acid solution of the powder, gave only a slight turbidity with silver nitrate. Perhaps your sodium carbonate is not free from chloride.

PILULA.—The result you thought due to a citrate was caused by a small quantity of carbonate, as explained above.

A. W. JONES.—The precipitate you obtained on adding silver nitrate to the solution prepared by boiling the powder with sodium carbonate, then acidulating with acetic acid and adding ammonia, was probably silver carbonate, which on boiling is reduced to silver oxide. The presence of the carbonate is explained above.

ACETYLENE.—See remarks to "Pilula."

B. C.—The powder dissolved in dilute hydrochloric acid, yielding a slightly turbid solution; as it contained barium it is evident that only a trace of sulphate could be present.

CASCARA.—The original powder possessed a faint odour of acetic acid, which several of our correspondents observed. When treated with strong sulphuric acid, or warmed with the dilute acid, the odour was very strong. The ferric chloride test applied as you described it produced a deep red colour.

R. P.—See remarks to "Cascara."

HUXHAM.—You seem to have overlooked the possibility of an acetate being present.

CTENOPHORA.—You did not note with sufficient care the series of changes that took place when the powder was heated, or when acted upon by sulphuric acid.

LYRA.—It would seem that you added ferric chloride to a solution containing free hydrochloric acid; if so, you could not expect ferric acetate to be produced.

NIL PRODEST.—Your work seems to have been done hurriedly and without any attempt at thoroughness. Analytical work is not worth attempting unless you aim at the utmost accuracy, and bestow upon it all the care you can command.

Q. S. O. P.—You did not attempt the detection of acetic acid. The cause of the precipitate you thought due to a citrate is explained above.

NOVICE.—You note that no sublimate was produced on heating, but you do not seem to have observed the darkening in colour and the evolution of acetone. None of your tests for acids were capable of detecting an acetate.

ELLEN FISH.—On evaporating the filtrate from group four to dryness and igniting the residue you decomposed the magnesium salt more or less, according to the temperature employed, leaving a residue of magnesia. On treating this with water the magnesia remained undissolved. The addition of a little dilute hydrochloric acid, and afterwards ammonia in excess, would have given you a solution containing all the magnesium in a condition suitable for precipitation as ammonio-phosphate.

YTTRIUM.—In dissolving the precipitated carbonates dilute acetic acid should be used, and the quantity employed should be barely sufficient to effect solution; and excess of acid should be avoided because it interferes with the separation of barium as chromate, that salt being slightly soluble in acetic acid.

H. F.—The smell of the powder alone suggested an acetate; the action of heat and of sulphuric acid left little doubt of the presence of an acetate. You must have noticed that a good deal of the powder dissolved in water. This was not consistent with the presence solely of carbonates of the alkali earth-metals.

A. C. E.—Instead of adding sodium phosphate to an aqueous solution of the powder for the detection of magnesium, you should have applied the reagent to the filtrate from which the barium and calcium had been separated as carbonates. Remember that the crystalline precipitate produced is a salt containing ammonium as well as magnesium; therefore an ammonium compound must be present as well as magnesium and the phosphoric radicle.

TURPS.—Ammonio-magnesium phosphate, like all crystalline

precipitates, takes some time to separate from dilute solutions: You did not allow sufficient time for its separation—a process of crystalline growth.

LIGNUM.—The behaviour of the powder with strong sulphuric acid was not consistent with the presence of a citrate and tartrate.

C. C. D. D.—The red colour of the Bunsen flame was due to calcium. You will find that calcium chloride moistened with strong hydrochloric acid gives the same effect.

INULA.—When the powder, moistened with hydrochloric acid, was ignited in the Bunsen flame until the red colour disappeared, a very distinct green colour was produced. This was due to barium. The green colour was best seen when the platinum wire was held in the extreme outer mantle of the flame.

PLATINUM.—See remarks to "H. F."

T. H. H. F.—The red lithium line was entirely absent from the spectrum of the flame. In several of the experiments you tried acetic acid must have been evolved; you should have recognised it by its odour. The aqueous extent of the powder gave a deep red colour with ferric chloride.

TRAGACANTH.—See remarks to "B. C."

CARBONACEOUS.—The solution you tested for potassium contained salts of ammonium, which yields with platinum chloride a compound very similar in its properties to the potassium salt. Ammonium salts should have been expelled by ignition before you tested for potassium.

VIX.—See remarks to "Glycol."

VERITAS.—A nitric-acid solution of the powder gave with silver nitrate a slight turbidity only, showing that merely a trace of chloride was present. You should have tried what colour the powder imparted to the Bunsen flame. See remarks to "Inula."

R. GRAHAM.—See remarks to "T. H. H. F."

B. M. P.—Practise the detection of magnesium and acetic acid in small quantities. You should be able to recognise a mere trace of the acid by its smell, using the ferric chloride test as confirmatory.

BLACK.—See remarks to "B. M. P."

O. W. L.—The precipitate you obtained with ferric chloride was ferric hydroxide, due to an excess of alkali in the solution you thought you had neutralised.

PHARMACON.—Having detected barium you should have removed it before you applied the alcohol-flame test for boric acid. Considering what metals you had detected, and that you found an acid solution of the powder gave no precipitate with ammonia, it was clear that phosphoric acid could not be present.



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Bristol Benevolence.

The city of Bristol is commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by providing a convalescent home for its hospital patients. 50,000*l.* was wanted, and 80,000*l.* has been obtained. Sir W. H. Wills gave 5,000*l.*, Mr. H. O. Wills 10,000*l.*, and Mr. E. P. Wills is to provide the building, which will cost 20,000*l.* Mr. Joseph S. Fry has given 10,000*l.* There are few provincial cities which can boast such munificence.

#### Alcoholic "Temperance" Drinks.

Fines were imposed on November 19 on seven Leicester shopkeepers for contravening the Licensing Acts by selling temperance drinks of various kinds, made from hops and herbs, which, on analysis, were proved to contain from 2 to 3 per cent. of absolute alcohol.

#### Manchester Chemists Recover Damages.

Mr. Alfred Ernest Powell, the representative of Price's Patent Candle Company in Manchester, and Mr. Charles



Watson, manufacturing chemist, Manchester, took tickets from Manchester on September 12 last for a day's trip to Menai Bridge and back. There was a mistake in the advertisement, as the Liverpool steamer which ran in connection with the train did not go beyond Beaumaris that day. Messrs. Powell and Watson, who only discovered that the arrangements were altered when they reached Beaumaris, refused to give up their tickets, and a Mr. Dodd, one of the managers of the Snowdon S.S. Company, gave them into custody at Liverpool, and they were taken to the police-station, where the charge was refused. Actions against Mr. Dodd were brought at the Manchester Assizes on November 19, and damages of 60% in the case of Mr. Powell and 30% to Mr. Watson were awarded.

#### Drug-contract.

The St. Thomas (Devon) Guardians have accepted the tender of Mr. Bard, chemist, of Exe-bridge, St. Thomas, to supply the workhouse with cod-liver oil at 6s. 10d. per gallon.

#### The Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

The Commercial Intelligence Committee of the Board of Trade continues to hold weekly sittings at Whitehall Gardens. At the meeting held on Monday Sir Courtenay Boyle, K.C.B., took the chair, and there were also present Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Sir H. G. Bergne, Sir F. Abel, Sir A. K. Rolit, M.P., Sir J. Mackay, and Messrs. S. E. Spring Rice, A. E. Bateman, C. Lucas (Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), W. H. Holland (President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce), and G. J. Stanley, of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

#### Death in a Chemist's Shop.

The Bristol Coroner (Mr. Doggett) held an inquest at Bedminster on November 19 on the body of Mary Iles, of Todderdown, who died in the shop of Mr. T. Spill, chemist, of 2 Stevens Crescent, on the previous day from the effects of poison. The deceased was brought to the shop by a man named Allan, with whom she lived, and she stated that she had taken poison. Mr. Spill gave her an emetic, and Dr. Bevis was sent for, but before his arrival the woman was dead, having died about five minutes after entering the shop. The jury returned a verdict of death from oxalic poisoning, self administered, whilst of unsound mind.

#### Dinner to the L.C.C. ex-Chemist.

On Saturday, November 20, about fifty members of the Chemical and Gas Department staff of the London County Council met at dinner at the Holborn Restaurant to bid an official good-bye to Mr. W. J. Dibdin, the late chemist to the Council. The chair was taken by Dr. Frank Clowes, the new Council chemist, and amongst the members of the staff present were Dr. F. L. Teed, Messrs. J. K. Colwell, F.I.C., J. Wade, B.Sc., G. L. Huntly, B.Sc., R. Bodmer, F.I.C., A. E. Pike, F.I.C., E. J. Parry, B.Sc., J. H. Coste, F.I.C., A. E. Tanner, R. Grimwood, F.I.C., and W. J. Livingston, F.I.C. An illuminated address, signed by about sixty of the staff, was read during the evening by Mr. W. J. Livingston, and presented to Mr. Dibdin by the Chairman. A number of speeches and songs were contributed, and among the latter was one by the guest of the evening, who gave "Tom Bowling," the author of which, it may be interesting to know, was Mr. Dibdin's great-grandfather.

#### Newspaper Reports of Inquests.

Mr. Smelt, the Manchester Coroner, held an inquest on November 19 concerning the death of a boy, aged 14, employed as an office-boy in the Manchester Stock Exchange, who had taken carbolic acid. He had left a note behind to say that he could not stand his work any longer. The Coroner observed that these peculiar cases were nearly always epidemic. Over and over again he had noticed that if a suicide was carried out in a peculiar manner it was followed by a number of others similar to it. This case was to some extent a copy of one in which a boy in London poisoned himself with prussic acid. This boy might have seen that case in the papers. In his opinion a great deal of mischief was done by the newspapers reporting cases of suicide. Such reports interested no one except in a morbid,

unhealthy way. They could do no good to anyone. If the newspapers would refrain from reporting suicides perhaps there would not be so many cases; but they seemed to glory in doing so. It was a most unhealthy and mischievous system.

#### The Sale of Laudanum.

Mr. Langham, the City Coroner, held an inquest on Monday concerning the death of Albert Dolding (40), late caretaker to Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, Queen Street Place. Dr. W. H. Kelson, who was called to the deceased but found him dead, said the cause of death was opium poisoning. A bottle which had contained laudanum was found by the side of the bed. It had no label. Arthur Day, a chemist, of Leadenhall Street, stated that he seemed to have a faint idea of serving the deceased, but he could not say. The bottle, however, in which they sold poisons was usually green, not white like the one produced. The Coroner's Clerk: The cork bears the name of witness's firm. Witness: Yes. A Juror: Can you sell laudanum other than by prescription?—Yes. The Juror: Then if I call for  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint I can have it? Witness: Oh, no; but I have sold 4 oz. at once. The Juror: Have you no record of who you serve as regards who they are? Witness: The schedule is divided, and the second part requires nothing but a poison-label and our address. A Juror: Then such a deadly drug ought to be more restricted. (Hear, hear.) A verdict of death by misadventure was returned.

#### Stealing from a Chemist.

At Macclesfield Police Court on November 17, George Brown pleaded guilty to stealing four tins of varnish, three cakes of soap, one box of pills, and three cigars, value 1l. 18s. 6d., the property of Mr. John Wright, chemist and druggist, Macclesfield, on various dates. The prisoner had been in the prosecutor's employ on and off for six or seven years, and had access to the places where the stolen goods were stored. He had sold some varnish, and a case of it and the other articles were found in his possession. He was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

#### The Slow Effects of Phosphorus.

An inquest was held at Birmingham, on November 19, on the body of Ellen Davis, aged 47, Lanch Street, formerly a domestic servant. She was addicted to drink, and on November 12 she swallowed a quantity of vermin-killer which she bought at the shop of Mr. Hedges, chemist, Steelhouse Lane. She lay in bed all the afternoon, declining assistance. That evening a young man living in the same house called a policeman's attention to the fact. It was then found that the bed was covered with phosphorus, looking as if it was on fire. The same appearance was found on the woman's hands. She died at the hospital on November 18. A house physician from the General Hospital said it was quite common for people to live as long as the deceased did after taking phosphorus; in fact, it was rare for them to die very soon afterwards. The Coroner pointed out to the jury that phosphorus not being a scheduled poison, there was no restriction on its sale, and it was not necessary to keep a record of sales. He noticed phosphorus was scheduled in the Irish Act, but not in the English Act.

#### The Chemists' Club.

The committee of the Chemists' Club, now situated at Farringdon Avenue, inform us that as the lease of the present premises expires at Christmas, and as the present locality has not been very convenient to many members, the committee have decided to remove westward, if possible into the vicinity of Regent Street. The committee think that a much wider sphere of usefulness, both socially and from a business standpoint, will be open to the club in fresh quarters. It is proposed to place the club on a much wider basis than at present.

#### Football.

A match was played on Saturday last, November 20, at Hyde Farm, Balham, between teams from the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy and the South London School of Pharmacy. The result was an easy win for the "Metropolitans" by 6 goals to 2.

The Pharmaceutical F.C. played the Hon. Artillery Com-



pany at Finsbury on Saturday, November 20. The match ended in a tie, 2 all. Pharmaceutical team: Blackmore (goal); Jones and Lescher (backs); Happold, Evans, and Webster (half-backs); Cardwell, Merrikin, Owen (centre), Durbin, and Warren (forwards).

#### A Chemist and Abortive Drugs.

At Kensington Town Hall, on Tuesday evening, Mr. Luzmoore Drew held an inquiry concerning the death of Louisa Chamberlain, aged 22, a domestic servant, who drowned herself in a cistern at her place of employment, 12 Ladbroke Square, on Saturday last. A fellow-servant, named Lena Brooks, said she had no idea that the deceased was pregnant. Witness had seen her taking medicine which she had obtained from a Mr. Goss, a chemist, of High Street, Notting Hill Gate. She had never seen instruments about, except a syringe, and the deceased never told her what it was for.

Dr. Edward Bellis said he saw the body when taken out of the cistern. Life had been extinct some time. He had made a *post-mortem* examination, and found all the organs healthy. There were no signs of poison in the stomach or any part of the body. Death was due to suffocation by drowning. The girl was about four months advanced in pregnancy. The bottle produced contained ergot of rye—a most powerful abortive. The pills were pennyroyal and aloes, and were used for the same purpose. It was dangerous to give a woman in the condition of the deceased such drugs.

George Goss, M.P.S., a pharmaceutical chemist, of 130 High Street, Notting Hill Gate, said he knew the deceased and had been keeping company with her. She told him a fortnight ago that she was pregnant.

The Coroner cautioned the witness as to what he said, as it might be used against him. By the advice of his solicitor, he elected to make a statement. He denied having given her the medicine which the doctor said contained an abortive. He could not say the contents. He had given her a syringe some months since. He admitted having given her the pills a month ago at least. They were simply pill-cochia. The deceased had worried about her condition, and witness had promised to help her. She had never threatened to do anything to herself. The letters produced were in his handwriting. He absolutely denied having given her ergot of rye.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

The Coroner ordered the police to impound the bottles, pills, and other things found in her room.

#### The Charge of Conspiracy.

At the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, in the case of George Walters (36) and Neville Shorthouse (38), two medical men, indicted for conspiring to commit an unlawful operation, and Francis Wardale (23), a chemist, of West Ham, who was indicted with them, Mr. Horace Avory, for the prosecution, applied for a postponement of the trial on the ground that since the committal of the accused the principal witness, a girl named Eliza Lambert, had been got out of the way. There was reason to believe that she had been shipped off to South Africa, and there was some suspicion as to who was responsible for her disappearance. Information was being obtained, however, on this point. Mr. George Elliott, who defended Wardale, said he had no objection to the adjournment, but strongly repudiated on behalf of his client any knowledge of the witness. The Recorder postponed the case, stating that so far as he was concerned he would do all he could to delay the case, however long they had to wait until the witness was forthcoming.

**AUTO-SUGGESTION.**—Customer: "Give me another bottle of toothache-drops; the last I got the cork came out and it all got spilt, but I've never had the toothache since. I'll take another in case it comes on again."

**OLD NEGRO WOMAN** (pouring coal-oil among a nest of cockroaches): "I jis' reckon I's gwine to fix you dis time. I'se tried lime, insecck-poddah an' hot watah, an' dey hain't dore no good; but now you'd jis as well gib up, fer you can't buck de Stan'ard Oil Company."



Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### Personal.

Sir Robert Jackson, C.B., Governor of the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, has been returned at the head of the poll as a Commissioner for the Pembroke Township, Dublin.

Mr. Edward M. Hodgson, J.P., of the firm of McMaster, Hodgson & Co., wholesale chemists and druggists, Capel Street, Dublin, has been elected Chairman of the Rathmines and Rathgar Township Commissioners.

#### A Lapsed Drug-contract.

At a meeting last week of the Dungarvan Board of Guardians Mr. Williams wrote that owing to the departure of Mr. Holland, the drug and medicine contractor, arrangements for a new appointment should be made. Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Dublin, wrote stating that they were willing to take over the contract for the remainder of the year on Mr. Holland's terms. The Clerk of the Union said that would only complicate matters, and it was decided to advertise the vacant contract.

#### Nitric Acid on Steamships.

Last week, during the passage from Falmouth to Dublin of the ss. *Lady Hudson Kinahan*, one of a number of jars of nitric acid exploded, and inflicted such serious injuries on a passenger named Eyre that he died. A second explosion of the acid occurred while the jars were being unloaded at Dublin, burning two of the ship's officers severely. The inquest on Mr. Eyre has been adjourned for special inquiry as to the shipment of the chemical, which was consigned to Messrs. Kynoch, of Arklow.

#### Pope and Bible.

A serious *fracas* took place last week at Cork between Mr. William Henry Bible, J.P., drug and oil merchant, and Mr. William Pope Hennessy, currier. The Magistrates before whom the case was brought came to the conclusion that Mr. Hennessy had assaulted Mr. Bible wantonly, and they bound him to keep the peace for six months, or in default four weeks' imprisonment.

#### Mullingar Medicine.

Last week at Mullingar the Governors of the Westmeath County Infirmary discussed at some length the question of advertising the drug and medicine contract to the Board. The Registrar reported that the medical officer had been asked to furnish a list of the articles mostly in use, but had refused to give it on the ground that there was an order on the books dated April, 1886, for all medicine to be procured from Messrs. Boileau & Boyd, Dublin. Owing to the doctor's refusal to supply the list, there was nothing to guide him in issuing the advertisement. One of the Governors said the order of 1886 was a censure on the local chemists, and moved that it be rescinded. The matter was deferred until the next meeting.

#### Rival Baking-powders.

The injunction proceedings brought by the Royal American Baking-powder Company to restrain Messrs. John Young & Sons, of Belfast, from selling Royal baking-powder so as to represent it to be an article manufactured by the plaintiffs in America and sold in Great Britain, came again before the Vice-Chancellor at Dublin last week. Defendants' counsel stated that an affidavit had been put in, and it was desired either to exclude that affidavit or that an opportunity should be given for answering it by an adjournment, so that both parties might be prepared to have the action finally disposed of at once. The Vice-Chancellor granted an adjournment for a week.



The arguments in the appeal case of Wright, Crossley & Co. v. Dobbin & Co. (Limited) were concluded in the Queen's Bench Court, Dublin, on Monday. Defendants were summoned for selling Royal baking-powder manufactured by the Royal Baking-powder Company, New York, with the word "Registered," in connection with the word "Royal," on the label, when in fact the New York Company had no registered trade-mark in the United Kingdom, although they had in America. The Court reserved judgment.

#### The Libel Action Robinson v. McWalter.

In the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court, Dublin, on Monday, November 22, before Mr. Justice Boyd, an action in which the plaintiff was Mr. Thomas W. Robinson, pharmaceutical chemist, and the defendant Mr. J. C. McWalter, pharmaceutical chemist, was settled. The action was to recover damages for libel alleged to have been contained in a letter written by the defendant and published in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

Mr. Charles McDermot, instructed by Messrs. Casey & Clay, on the part of the plaintiff moved to make a consent a rule of court. By the consent it was agreed that all further proceedings in the action should be stayed on the following terms: The defendant unreservedly apologised to the plaintiff for the defamatory charge conveyed by the letter headed "Irish Pharmaceutical Election," dated September 21, 1897, which appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of September 25, 1897, and absolutely withdrew all charges against and reflections upon the plaintiff in connection with the Irish Pharmaceutical Society and the Irish Pharmaceutical election mentioned in the letter and in every other respect. It was also agreed that the defendant should insert in the next issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and also send to each member and associate druggist of the Pharmaceutical Society, a copy of the following letter:—"Dear Sir, I have only this moment learned that I had completely misinterpreted what had been told me concerning the proceedings at the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, and that I had been utterly mistaken in supposing that you had been rejected as examiner. Whether or not you think fit of instituting any proceedings against me, I beg that you will receive a full personal apology for making so unfounded a suggestion, and an assurance of extreme regret apart from any ulterior consequences that may ensue that I should have allowed myself to be led into so serious an error. Yours truly, J. C. MCWALTER. To T. W. Robinson, Esq., Kingstown." The defendant also agreed to pay the plaintiff's costs, including those of the present consent.

Mr. Justice Boyd made the consent a rule of court.



#### New Start.

Mr. J. C. McCorquodale, chemist and druggist, is opening a new pharmacy in Markinch, Fife, where there has only been one druggist for fifty years. Mr. McCorquodale was formerly in Hampstead, London.

#### M.D., ex-Chemist.

At the Graduation Ceremony held at Glasgow University on November 4, Dr. James Cochrane, M.B., C.M., had conferred on him the higher degree of M.D. Dr. Cochrane qualified as a chemist and druggist at Edinburgh in 1833, after which he carried on business in Wishaw for the period of ten years, and a few years ago disposed of it to Mr. Andrew Whitelaw.

#### An Old Professor.

One of the old school of chemists has passed away in Dr. Matthew Forster Heddle, who was Professor Purdie's predecessor in the chair of chemistry at the St. Andrew's University. His early training was in medicine, and he

graduated M.D. at the Edinburgh University in 1851. His chemical strength lay in the direction of mineralogy, and as there are few students of chemistry at St. Andrew's University, he devoted much time to that subject.

#### Explosion of a Chloroform-still in Edinburgh.

An explosion took place on Tuesday afternoon at the wholesale establishment of Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., 104 South Back, Canongate, Edinburgh, which happily was not attended with fatal results, although there has been considerable damage to plant and property. A still had been charged with over half a ton of chloroform, and the process of manufacture had been about half completed when suddenly the still exploded with a loud report, and the fumes, of course, quickly spread through the apartment where the explosion took place. About fifteen men were exposed to the fumes, but the majority of them, apparently realising the danger, rushed for the open air. Thus the majority escaped any injury whatever, but six or seven, who were in the vicinity of the still when it exploded, were more or less affected. All, however, recovered quickly, except one man, who had been on the top of the still when the explosion occurred. He was so stupefied that he was unable to gain the open air, and it was with difficulty that several of the men could return and bring him out. He was treated at the Royal Infirmary, and was able to leave on Wednesday quite recovered, but with his eyes slightly burned. The accident was caused through there being an evidently long-standing crack in the still, which weighed 1½ ton, traversing about two-thirds of its circumference. The bottom was left in its place, but the remainder was lifted to the roof of the room, and made a hole there. Other plant has been damaged to a considerable extent.

## French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**EXPLOSION OF BENZINE.**—At M. Fauqueur's pharmacy, Lens, last week, a young assistant was taking a carboy of benzine down the cellar-steps. He had first placed a lamp at the bottom to see his way. Apparently he slipped, for the carboy fell and he with it. The benzine was of course spilt, and exploded on coming into contact with the lamp. The shock was so great that the shop-windows of the pharmacy were blown out. The young man was able to rush up the steps into the shop, mad with terror and badly burned; he was immediately conveyed to a hospital. The pharmacy took fire, but the flames were soon got under. The fire in the cellar required two hours' work to conquer.

**NUX VOMICA FOR FISHING.**—An amendment to the Budget of Agriculture has been handed to the Chamber of Deputies by M. George Berry, with a view to obtaining a subvention of 15,000f. (600l.) in favour of the French Syndicate for fresh-water fishing. At first view this appears to be unnecessary liberality; but it appears that the object is to start a movement in favour of protecting the rivers and streams of France against poachers, who cause devastation amongst the fishes and poison the water. One of their favourite tricks is said to be to pour nux vomica in a stream known to be well stocked with fish. After absorbing the drug the fish become agitated and rise struggling to the surface of the water, when they are easily caught in nets.

**THE NAME OF PASTEUR.**—An interesting legal case was heard in Paris a few days ago in which the use of the name of Pasteur in matters of commerce was the subject of litigation. A firm of manufacturers had apparently adopted the name of the famous chemist to designate a liqueur made by them. The family of the deceased *savant* protested against this abuse on the ground that during his lifetime he had always persistently refused to allow his name to appear in connection with any commercial undertaking. The defendants contended that they had arranged with a homonym of Pasteur to adopt his name, but as they had dropped the Christian name a confusion had occurred. They offered in future to add the distinctive first name on all their labels and printed matter. This was considered satisfactory by the Court, who also ordered that the word "distiller" should



be added. The plaintiffs were M. Jean Pasteur and his brother-in-law M. Vallery-Ridot. Their counsel expressed their firm intention to energetically protect the name of Pasteur.

**PHARMACY FROM THE FAR EAST.**—A curious and somewhat interesting collection of drugs, medicaments, &c., has been received by M. Deniker, Librarian of the Paris Museum of Natural History. It consists of some 375 specimens of roots and herbs used in Corea, supposed to be infallible in the treatment of the most diverse maladies. The collection has been forwarded by a Russian functionary, M. Chimkievitch, and, so far as one can judge, the Coreans have very largely borrowed from their neighbours the Chinese in the matter of medicines. Most of the samples are wrapped up in a curious and somewhat complicated way in little squares of Chinese paper bearing the Korean formulæ. A manuscript accompanies the collection of drugs, giving a list of 110 varieties of medicine. Each formula indicates the name of the illness for which the remedy is intended. Cures for indispositions of sober-minded people are given, such as colds, indigestions, headaches, fever, &c., while roysterers are favoured with a panacea for the "unpleasant feelings experienced on the morrow of a feast, or too-abundant libations." People who are disposed to be "cross-tempered on rising in the morning" are also catered for.

**PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.**—During a lengthy residence in Paris I have often met young men who come to this city for twelve months or so "to learn French." Not unfrequently they go away without having made much progress in the language, though, perhaps, they may have formed acquaintance with Englishmen placed similarly to themselves and gained experience they would be better without. Now a father would be doing his son a far greater service by sending him to some provincial town in France. He would hear less English spoken, and the cost of living would be less. A double advantage would be gained if he could go to a University town and there follow a course. He would easily form acquaintances amongst his fellow-students, besides coming into personal contact with his professors to a much greater extent than is possible in Paris. In fact, it appears to me that for such subjects as chemistry and pharmacy it would distinctly broaden any young man's mind to follow a year's course in France on those subjects that are to be his life's work. These remarks occur to me on perusing a little pamphlet forming a students' guide I have just received from the Secretary of the Amiens School of Medicine and Pharmacy. It is stated that youths of 17 years of age and upwards are allowed, after application to the Director of the School, to follow the lectures and take part in the practical work without other formality except the payment of certain comparatively small fees. The course is a complete one, and such as is necessary for obtaining the diploma of "pharmacien de première classe." I feel sure that here, as well as at the other provincial schools of pharmacy in France, an English student would be cordially received, and, if he showed reasonable aptitude for work, meet with courteous attention during the whole of his stay.

**A "CLASTIC" ANATOMY MANUFACTORY.**—Visitors who have seen the interesting zoology collection at the Paris School of Pharmacy cannot fail to have been struck by the enormous model of a bee, some 6 feet long, showing the internal structure of the insect on a large scale. Such models are largely used in France for the study of natural history and anatomy. They are made with great skill and exactness, and are almost as instructive as actual dissection. An interesting account is given in a recent issue of the *Paris Illustration*, of a visit to the manufactory of Dr. Auzoux, one of the oldest established and most important of the kind, situated in a little known Normandy village. The parts are a special preparation, which is neither papier maché, wax, nor plaster, but combines the advantages of all three. Run into the mould, it finds its way into the slightest cavity, and when dry, is as strong as wood. After drying (which sometimes occupies a week or so), the pieces are "adjusted" or mounted together, by workmen who by long practice and daily lectures have acquired extreme accuracy in work, and even a surprising knowledge of anatomy. The youngest (a mere lad) could name the positions and functions of each of the numerous portions of the gigantic model of the human ear on which he was engaged. The colouring is the last

process, and then the pieces are ready for sale. When the factory was founded fifty years ago the human frame alone was modelled, but almost the whole of the animal creation has since been added, from the gorilla to the zoophyte. Nor are the lower forms of life the least intricate or interesting. The cockroach model contains six hundred separate pieces, while the bee is moulded in six forms: queen, drone, working-bee, &c. A viper's head a yard long, a snail nearly as large, a "clastic" Venus of Mediceis, whose muscles, veins, and organs can all be dismounted and replaced at will, a gigantic butterfly, a grasshopper's digestive organs, the brains of various animals, a half-flayed monkey, such is the medley nightmare of objects that fills the showroom.

## South African News.

(From our Correspondents.)

**THE election for the Cape Colony Pharmacy Board will be held in December.** Mr. Carman, of Carman & Workman, Woodstock, Cape Colony, has been nominated as an independent candidate.

**RAILWAY CONTRACTS.**—Messrs. P. J. Petersen & Co. have secured the contract for the supply of drugs, chemicals, and sundries to the Cape Government Railways (Western System). The contract extends over twelve months, and comes into force in January next.

**PETROLEUM OIL IN CAPE COLONY.**—Petroleum has been recently discovered in the Ceres district of the colony. Mr. W. Gasson, the well-known pharmacist of Kimberley, analysed a sample drawn from the spring, and has given a very favourable report as to quality.

**SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION.**—Some minor alterations have been made in the Cape Customs tariff. Amongst these may be mentioned that on foods, such as Mellin's, Benger's, Nestlé's, &c., the duty has been reduced to 9 per cent. *ad val.*, instead of 20 per cent, as at first enforced. The Customs authorities' explanation is that medicated or prepared foods are not proprietary articles within the meaning of the tariff.

**GLYCERINE FOR SALE.**—A month or so since the "Department of Agriculture" bought up all the glycerine they could lay their hands on at anything from 56s. per cwt. to 1s. 6d. per lb., in anticipation of its use in the preparation of rinderpest-vaccine. But this expected demand has not taken place, and the Department are now advertising 8 tons for sale, which is enough to stock wholesale houses, with their present supplies, for some time to come.

**SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.**—At the annual meeting in September, of which mention has previously been made, the President (Mr. J. A. Willet) referred to the proposed Medical and Pharmacy Act Amendment Bill, which the Association had opposed by petition to Parliament, and congratulated the members that it had not become law. The list of subscribers to the Association was larger than that of the previous year, and he hoped that the Western Province chemists would throw in their lot with them. Messrs. Mager and Walsh were again asked to stand for the election of chemists on the new Pharmacy Board, and they signified their willingness to do so. Officers were also elected for the ensuing year, Mr. J. A. Willet being re-elected President.

**MEDICINE-BOTTLES IN THE TRANSVAAL.**—The taxation suggestions of the Sub-Commission of the Transvaal Volksraad, to which we referred in our editorial note of last week, came before the Raad on October 25. After a lengthy debate a resolution to the effect that a final decision should be postponed for three months, in order to find out public opinion on the question, was rejected, and another, approving (with certain exceptions) the Taxation Commission's suggestions, adopted by the casting-vote of the Chairman. The exceptions are that the tax on tea shall remain 5s. per cwt., that the tax of 1s. per dozen shall apply to all empty bottles "except medicine-bottles up to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -pint size," and that the opium-duty should be increased from 2s. 6d. (proposed by the Commission) to 5s. It is believed that the annual imports of opium into the Republic amount to "at least 200 lbs."



**THE FIRST PHARMACY IN JOHANNESBURG.**—Our sketch represents the "Golden Mortar" Apotheek, of Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, as it appeared when that modern town was first mapped out in 1833. The Golden Mortar-Tent was the first pharmacy on the Rand. The proprietor set his face against "cutting" from the outset, and conscientiously charged from 10s. up to 20s. for any ordinary mixture, an ounce of Epsom salts, or an 8-oz. bottle of tincture of rhubarb. This did not include the bottle. Every patient had to bring his own, and if he didn't the prescription was dispensed to him in a beer, whisky, or pickle bottle, or in anything else capable of holding it. But the



Rand-prospectors of those days were an easy-going lot in the matter of small cash, and seldom waited for change when they put down a half-sovereign or sovereign on a shop-counter. The Golden Mortar Apotheek is now a handsome two-storied building. Our sketches are reproduced from originals sent to us by Mr. A. G. Smith, pharmaceutical chemist, formerly apprenticed to Mr. G. J. W. Newsholme, of Sheffield, and a well-known student at the Sheffield School of Pharmacy during the early days of that institution. Mr. Smith is now manager to Mr. Joseph Heymann, pharmaceutical chemist, the proprietor of the present "Golden Mortar" Dispensary, which was evolved out of the single-storeyed brick building that took the place of the corrugated-iron shanty which, in its turn, superseded the tent shown in our first illustration. The present shop is fitted throughout by Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson, and boasts of one of the finest dispensing departments in South Africa.

## Colonial and Foreign News.

**THE NEW YORK DRUGGISTS' LEAGUE** for shorter hours of business, for it has drafted a Bill for a 10-hours' day, excluding Saturday (12 hours) and Sunday (4 hours). The New York Board of Trade has taken the matter up with a view of getting the Bill through the Legislature.

**RINDERPEST-SERUM.**—The end of the rinderpest-cures is not yet. An article in the *Lancet* roundly condemns both the Koch and Edington methods of inoculation as inefficacious, and the *British Medical Journal* announces that Dr. George Turner, the medical officer of Cape Colony, has, in conjunction with Mr. Wilhelm Kolle, succeeded in preparing a serum which confers immunity.

**YELLOW JACK.**—A newspaper in Memphis, Tenn., where yellow fever is epidemic, published a doctor's prescription for preventing the disease. The druggists had a run upon the drug, which they dispensed in capsules, 100 in a box. The total for one day's sales for seven drug-stores was 50,500 capsules. It is probable that Memphis druggists do not consider yellow fever, or the fear of it, a wholly unmixed evil, says the *Pharmaceutical Era*.

**NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PHARMACY IS SHOCKED.**—A firm of dentists in New York have issued a card of portraits said to represent twenty-five of their "present staff of expert operators and assistants," and among the portraits are those of Professor Smith Ely Jelliffe, Professor John Oehler, Professor Virgil Coblentz, and Professor G. A. Ferguson, all of the college. This is a "fake" on the part of the "Boston dentists." It helps to make their staff look important.

**"CARTEE'S, SAY IT TWICE."**—Mr. Brent Good, "president of the largest proprietary pill company in the world—

Carte's," was in Cincinnati, Ohio, the other day, and a newspaper man got hold of him, extracting some interesting bits of news, such as—The salary of Mr. Good is said to be \$50,000 a year, equal to that of the President of the United States, who is compelled to use his pills. "We have spent \$700,000 in advertising in Great Britain," Mr. Good added to that about the President; "and while our progress has been slow, we have found that we were steadily gaining ground and are now getting fair returns for our great outlay. We advertise in 9,000 newspapers, and our bill in that line last year was \$360,000."

**THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT CINCHONA-PLANTATIONS.**—The Government cinchona-plantations and quinine-factory in Bengal appear to be almost as profitable as those in Southern India. From the rather complicated accounts published in the annual report of these plantations for 1896-97 it is difficult to arrive at the exact profits on the year's working, but it is apparently half a lakh of rupees. The total factory output of sulphate of quinine was 14,124 lbs. The Naduvatom factory made 7,891 lbs. during the same period, so that Government manufactured in all just 2 tons of quinine last year. Most of this goes to meet a new demand that would not exist but for Government undertaking the distribution. In the Bengal report it is stated that cinchona-febrifuge is bought largely by the non-official public, who are under no sort of compulsion to use it in preference to other febrifuges, but who do so because they find it such an efficient medicine. There is, for example, a single native medical practitioner in the Jessore district whose purchases of it last year exceeded the official consumption of the whole province of Bengal.

## Tabs.

**ORTOL** is the name of a new photographic developer which works cleanly and gives good density.

**LEONTIN** is a standardised 1-per-cent. solution of the active principles of *Caulophyllum thalictroides*.

**CAMPHOR-TREES** are being cultivated near Monterey, in Mexico, and there is a prospect of camphor-distillation taking place there.

**A CRYSTALLINE ACTIVE PRINCIPLE** has been isolated from capsicum by Norbitz. It is not a resin, nor an alkaloid, nor a glucoside, but it is hot.


**OKLAHOMA** has a pharmacy law of its own, and a regular board of pharmaceutical examiners. Mr. F. B. Lillie, Guthrie, Oklahoma, is secretary of the board.

**GINGER-DRUNKENNESS** means getting drunk on essence of ginger and it has one peculiar effect discovered by Dr. A. G. Thompson, of Philadelphia—viz., it causes optic atrophy or blindness.

**AN ACARUS** (*Holothyrus coccinella*) has been observed in China which while alive causes severe irritability of the mucous membrane in men and animals, and when dead is an efficient vesicant.

**TO STOP BLEEDING** after tooth-extraction pass a double silk thread through both sides of the torn gum with a needle, and tie firmly over the alveolar border. This when the usual methods fail.

**A SUGGESTION** has been made for establishing at Berne, or some other central city, a trade-marks office where registration of a mark would carry with it protection throughout the whole civilised world.

**A CORN-PLASTER** should be applied like this , says a writer in the *Lancet*—i.e., cut the plaster in two across the centre and apply the two sections round the base of the corn. This method affords relief at once.

**ORTHOFORM**, the new local anæsthetic, comes into the market as a hydrochloride. Constitutionally it resembles cocaine, being para-amido-meta oxybenzoic methyl ester, and is far from being toxic. Dose, 8 to 16 gr. It is a white powder.

**TO TEST URINE FOR ALBUMIN** draw up about an inch of the urine into a glass pipette or tube, then as much nitric acid, when if even a trace of true albumin be present there will appear a beautiful line of demarcation between the acid and urine.



## The Winter Session.

### THE STANDARDISATION OF DRUGS.

A PAPER on this subject was read by Mr. A. WATHES at the meeting of the Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association at Birmingham on November 17. Mr. H. Jessop (the President) was in the chair. Mr. Wathes had tested a large number of samples of drugs, with the following results:—

Drug Examined	Number of Samples Examined	Highest	Lowest	Substance Estimated
Acidum hydrocyanicum dilutum	5	2.29%	1.68%	Hydrocyanic acid
Extractum cinchonæ liquidum	4	4.20%	3.10%	Alkaloids
Injectio morphinæ hypodermica ...	5	4.03 gr.	3.58 gr.	Morphine in 1 fl. dr.
Liquor arsenicalis	5	.970%	.847%	Arsenious acid
Liquor arsenici hydrochloricus	4	.980%	.863%	Arsenious acid
Liq. calcis chlorinatæ ...	3	2.5%	.46%	Available chlorine
Liquor calcis saccharatus ...	5	2.15%	1.23%	Calcium oxide
Liquor ferri dialysatus ...	5	4.94%	3.31%	Ferric oxide
Liquor ferri perchloridi fortior	5	15.8 gr.	14.40 gr.	Ferric oxide in 1 fl. dr.
Liquor potassæ ...	5	6.56%	5.60%	Potassium hydrate
Liquor sodæ ...	4	5.36%	4.16%	Sodium hydrate
Liquor sodæ chlorinatæ ...	5	4.19%	.02%	Available chlorine
Syrupus ferri iodidi ...	5	3.5 gr.	3.1 gr.	Iodide of iron in 1 fl. dr.

Mr. Wathes explained that all the samples were purchased from first-class wholesale houses in London and the provinces, and might be regarded as typical samples. While he fully agreed with standardisation wherever it could be satisfactorily applied, he thought these results practically proved that it was disregarded in many instances. He thought, too, there would be hesitation in recommending the standardisation of those drugs which took more time, skill, and costly apparatus in the assay. He also stated, in reply to a question by Mr. ALCOCK, that he had estimated the morphine in the hypodermic injection by precipitation with the aid of cold and saturated morphine-water.

Mr. H. S. LAWTON said these results went to show that pharmacists should check all preparations for themselves. He pointed out that liq. sodæ chlor. was an unstable preparation, which would depreciate considerably after two or three months' keeping.

Mr. E. OSBORNE contended that it should be imperative for wholesale houses to keep their drugs and chemicals up to standard, and urged that inspectors under the Food and Drugs Act should take samples from wholesale houses, as well as from retail chemists. Doctors were also customers of wholesale houses, and they had not the conveniences to test their own preparations.

Mr. F. CASSON affirmed that every care was taken in the laboratory to see that things were properly standardised, but warehousemen would sometimes put liq. sodæ chlor. in a warm place after receiving it in good condition, and thereby reduce the strength of the solution. Standardisation was a poor crutch to lean on, but it was the best they had. There were many things which chemists could make themselves, and in cases where they could not make the preparations they should check them.

Mr. J. SELBY spoke in favour of standardisation, especially in the case of tinctures. In the case of tr. opii, for instance, cheap tinctures were made with opium of an inferior quality.

Mr. F. H. ALCOCK remarked that although the paper was not a lengthy one, there was a great deal of work in it. The results of inj. morph. were appalling, and none of the samples of ext. cinch. liq. came up to standard. He thought some of the processes of the B.P. were misleading. In testing opium, for instance, the B.P. ordered a certain method of procedure which, if followed, would not give the correct results. Similarly, if the directions for testing liq. arsenicalis were followed the result would not come out right. Liq. calcis sacch., if made according to the B.P. method, did not come up to the standard. If the sugar were mixed with a little water first to make a syrup, and the lime added after, the product would be found nearly twice the strength of that obtained by the B.P. method. In organic compounds there were difficulties in the way of standardisation because of their uncertain composition. In ipecacuanha what were they to standardise for? as in some cases it was as good without emetine as with it. The alkaloids of veratrine were diametrically opposed in regard to their action on the heart; therefore it could not be estimated for total alkaloids. The subject of standardisation was still young, and anything done to help it would be welcome. He thought every preparation should be checked, and the strength marked on the bottle. If a chemist did not make his simple syrup and lime-water, he should take care that they were of proper strength.

Mr. SHORTHOUSE said it was of great importance to a medical man to be sure that in ordering a dose for his patient he would get the full dose and not two-thirds of it. He fully agreed with standardisation if carried out properly, but if drugs were no better than Mr. Wathes had shown he would leave it alone.

The PRESIDENT felt inclined to say, "If this is standardisation, give us something else." The injection of morphia was dreadful. He thought they might reasonably expect a greater uniformity in chemical preparations.

Mr. WATHES, in reply, said if in simple cases such as those he had given there was so great a variation, what could they expect in the case of those things which were more difficult to standardise? He thought the fact that doctors could not check their own preparations was only another reason why doctors should not do their own dispensing. He also thought that wholesale houses should be responsible for the storage of drugs. He asked Mr. Alcock what method he would suggest for estimating opium?

Mr. ALCOCK said that the morphia should not be precipitated, but dissolved by means of acetic ether or some such menstruum. This solution could then be evaporated. As a rule, he recommended the alkaloid to be dissolved out in preference to precipitation.

### PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, STONEHOUSE AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A COMMITTEE meeting of the trade section of the Three Towns' Chemists' Association was held at the rooms in Whimble Street on November 18, when Mr. C. J. Park, Mutley Plain, was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. F. Roper, Holborn Place, Cattedown, Hon. Secretary.

### ABERDEEN JUNIOR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held on November 19, the question, "Does the eye or the ear afford the more amusement?" was discussed. Mr. WALLACE opened for the ear and Mr. WATT for the eye. After a heated discussion, 19 voted for the ear and 12 for the eye.

### MR. HOWIE'S LECTURE AT NEWCASTLE.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne and District Chemists' Association was held on November 17, when Mr. W. Lamond Howie, F.C.S., pharmaceutical chemist, London, gave his famous lantern-lecture, "From Mont Blanc to the Matterhorn." Professor Oliver, M.D., of the Durham University College of Medicine, was in the chair. The lecture was not a public one, and climatic conditions were anything but favourable. Yet members and their friends to the number of about four hundred responded to the hon. secretary's circular. A representative company of pharmacists from the sister association in Sunderland



was present by invitation. The lecture and the views were much enjoyed, and Mr. Howie was warmly thanked. Mr. John Watson skilfully manipulated the lantern.

#### EDINBURGH CHEMISTS', ASSISTANTS', AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

At the second meeting of the session, held on November 19, Mr. George Sinclair (President) in the chair, a paper on

##### THE ETHICS OF PHARMACY,

was read by Mr. ARCHIBALD CURRIE. Mr. Currie began by declaring that "pharmacy has no ethics." He explained that he meant there were no generally recognised principles or rules of conduct in pharmacy. He knew that many pharmacists have a high code of their own, and he wished there were more such. But, to a large degree, pharmacy is a chaos of conflicting interests—many of them self-interests. Make money—honestly, if you can, but by all means make money—seems to be the sum total of the morality of those engaged in it. He dealt with the obligations of a pharmacist to himself, to the public, to the doctor, and to his brother pharmacist. The author was severe on the chemist who promotes his message-boy to the rank of apprentice, on the masters who neglect the education of their apprentices, on the pernicious system of cram, on vile quackery, on the purchase of ready-made galenicals, on advertisements (more common in England than in Scotland) for assistants with a knowledge of counter-prescribing, and on the worship of Mammon generally.

The next paper was by Mr. J. RUTHERFORD HILL on

##### SEIDLITZ POWDERS.

Mr. Hill said the name seidlitz is assumed by some writers to have been derived from the town Seidlitz, in North Bohemia, where there is a saline spring which, one writer says, yields a water of similar composition to that of an ordinary seidlitz powder. That this is incorrect is manifest when we know that the natural Seidlitz water salt contains about 84 per cent. of magnesium sulphate and 18 per cent. of sodium sulphate. Christison makes the probable suggestion that seidlitz is a corruption of Seignette, an apothecary in Rochelle, who in 1672 discovered a method of making tartrated soda by a process kept secret till it was discovered by Geoffroy in 1731. Hence this salt was called Seignette's or Rochelle salt. Martindale and Maben in 1884 and Hoseason in 1889 drew attention to the great variation in the composition of these powders as usually met with in commerce. To get rid of this undesirable variation, an official formula was given in the Additions to the Pharmacopœia, 1890. The standard fixed was Rochelle salts 120 gr., bicarbonate of soda 40 gr., in the blue powder, and tartaric acid 28 gr. in the white powder. Mr. Hill said he had recently examined nine samples of ordinary seidlitz powders and eleven double seidlitz powders. Of the nine he found only one which was almost accurate. This weighed 37 gr. of tartaric acid, 40 gr. of bicarbonate of soda, and 122 gr. of Rochelle salts. The others varied from 32 to 57 gr. of tartaric acid, from 22 to 50 gr. of bicarbonate of soda, and from 102 to 206 gr. of Rochelle salts. Three contained sugar in addition. The eleven samples of double strength seidlitz varied from 27 to 55 gr. of tartaric acid, from 41 to 94 gr. of bicarbonate of soda, and from 128 to 353 gr. of Rochelle salts. Again sugar was found in three samples. Two of the double-strength powders contained appreciable quantities of lime, and had apparently been made from inferior cream of tartar. Mr. Hill explained that, with one exception, the samples were got from so-called doctors' shops. Judging from the class of employés in charge of such places, it is highly probable that many of them are quite ignorant of the fact that an official standard for these powders exists. This is but another evidence of the highly unsatisfactory condition of things pharmaceutical that prevails in these places, and is an additional proof that pharmacy should be in the hands of pharmacists, in the interest not so much of chemists and druggists, as in the wider interest of public welfare and safety. Mr. Hill also exhibited flowering specimens of *Ulex europæus*,

*Geranium pyrenaicum*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Stellaria media*, *Achillea millefolium*, *Senecio viscosus*, &c., gathered on Arthur's Seat, as evidence of the unwonted mildness of the season. He also mentioned that last week a crop of raspberries was gathered in a garden at Ardrossan in Ayrshire. Also that in Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh, there were to be seen some very fine specimens of mistletoe (*Viscum album*) growing on a species of Hawthorn. He also exhibited seedling plants of *Ulex europæus* showing cotyledons, ternary leaves, and gradual transition to subulate leaves. The roots of the seedling plants bore many nodules of the nitrogen-fixing bacteroids so common on roots of leguminous plants. A week ago *Stellaria graminca* was in full flower on Arthur's Seat, but a single night with seven degrees of frost had completely destroyed the delicate flowers.

Another paper, also by Mr. J. Rutherford Hill, entitled

##### WHAT IS A POISON?

was read. Mr. Hill said much light is sometimes thrown on the meaning of a word by tracing its origin and derivation. But not much help is got in this way in the case of the word "poison." It is a French word derived, apparently, from the word *empoison*, or *pouison*, used by the Celtic emigrants from England, who inhabited Brittany in N.W. France. The word is one of very indefinite application, and a reference to dictionaries serves to illustrate the difficulty involved in giving any clear answer to the apparently simple question "What is a poison?" Johnson's Dictionary, 1766, gives, "That which destroys or injures life by a small quantity, and by means not obvious to the senses"; the Imperial Dictionary gives, "Any agent capable of producing a morbid, noxious, or dangerous effect upon anything endowed with life." Collins's Pocket Dictionary, 1875, gives, "Anything infectious or malignant." Hoblyn's Dictionary gives, "Substances which derange the vital functions, and produce death, by an action not mechanical." Chambers's Encyclopædia gives, "Any substance or matter which, when introduced into the body in any way, can destroy life by its own inherent qualities without acting mechanically." Johnson's definition is manifestly too restricted, because it excludes such substances as, for instance, salts of lead and antimony, which act only as poisons when given in large doses. The other definitions are, on the other hand, so unrestricted as to be easily extended to such harmless things as potatoes. In common law, and even in some special statutes, the use of the word is attended with the same doubt, as, for instance, in the Poisoned Grain Act, 1863, and the Poisoned Flesh Act, 1864. Every case that comes up must be discussed on its merits, and the tribunal before whom the question is debated must judge and decide whether or not the substances in question are in the circumstances of each case "poisonous and calculated to destroy life." There is no absolute and imperative definition of the word for the guidance of the judge, and in ordinary law it is almost a truism that there is hardly any question so difficult to answer as the question, "What is a poison?" But in pharmacy law there is no dubiety. The difficulty is completely surmounted by clause 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, which says:—"The several articles named in Schedule (A) shall be deemed to be poisons within the meaning of this Act." Although it could be proved that the substances in the schedule were perfectly innocuous, they would nevertheless be poisons within the meaning of the Act. And, on the other hand, a highly noxious substance like carbolic acid is not a poison because it has not yet been named in the schedule. Liquid extract of ergot is included as a means of preventing crime. In Ireland ether has been scheduled as a means of arresting the local evil of ether tipping. If you take the trouble to read the debates in the law courts as, for instance, the "Chlorodyne" cases in 1892, the "Licoricine" case in 1893, and the "Powell's Balsam" case in 1894, you cannot fail to see how very difficult it has been to get this idea into the legal mind, and how persistently the wholly irrelevant question "Is this substance poisonous or calculated to destroy life?" has occurred. Of course it has to be admitted that there might be a quantity of scheduled poison so small that the court would treat it as not existing. But this principle ought not to apply in any case where the presence of the substance can be clearly proved.



## BRIGHTON JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY.

THE attraction at the meeting on November 17 was a lecture entitled "Personal Reminiscences of the Record Reign," by Mr. B. Lomax (Curator of the Brighton Museum).

## CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

THE room was nearly full when Professor DEWAR took the chair at 8 o'clock on Thursday, November 18, and after the long list of candidates for fellowship was gone through, he read a letter from Sir Flectwood Edwards announcing that a Jubilee medal had been conferred on him. The first three papers read were on camphor derivatives, on which the discussion seems to have reached a more definite point. Professor Perkin contributed to the last number of the proceedings the abstract of a paper on sulpho-camphylic acid, which develops the reasons for his formula for camphoric acid. The first paper was

## ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF CAMPHORIC ACID BY FUSION WITH POTASH OR SODA.

By A. W. Crossley and W. H. Perkin, jun.

They find a great number of acids in the product, among them several new compounds. One of the latter, which they name dihydrocamphoric acid, has the constitution of an  $\alpha\alpha'\beta\beta'$  tetra-methyladipic acid. Its formation can only be explained on Perkin's formula for camphoric acid.

The second paper described

## EXPERIMENTS ON THE SYNTHESIS OF CAMPHORIC ACID.

By W. H. Bentley and W. H. Perkin, jun.

The authors have prepared isobutylmethylhydroxyglutaric acid with the intention of eliminating water at a desired point of the molecule and thus closing it up, but were unsuccessful, a lactone acid being the chief product. A large number of new compounds were isolated and described. The third paper was on the

## SYNTHESIS OF AN ISOMER OF CAMPHORONIC ACID.

By S. B. Schryver, Ph.D.

The author is an unsuccessful wooer of the camphor ideal. He had formulated a theory of its composition, which he has now given up, and it was in attempting to synthesise a compound of the formula desired that he had discovered the bodies he described.

In the discussion on the three papers which followed, Dr. KIPPING remarked on the difficulty of adequately criticising such papers without full time and opportunities for study. However, it seemed to him that all the results obtained by Dr. Crossley and Dr. Perkin in their study of the substances produced by fusing camphoric acid with potash could be explained on the basis of Bredt's formula; his opinion might, of course, be altered after he had carefully examined the details of the work when published.

Dr. FORSTER showed the bearing of Professor Perkin's formula for camphoric acid on the question of the composition of camphor.

Dr. CROSSLEY in reply pointed out that the main evidence for Perkin's formula was not yet published, and insisted on the incompatibility of the formation of dihydrocamphoric acid with Bredt's formula.

The next paper was on

## THE ACTION OF MAGNESIUM ON CUPRIC SULPHATE SOLUTION.

By Frank Clowes, D.Sc., and R. M. Caven, B.Sc.

It derived some interest from the fact that a question on the subject was set in a recent examination. In the action of magnesium on solutions of cupric sulphate of different strengths, the evolution of hydrogen which always takes place is accompanied by the precipitation of a mixture of cuprous oxide and metallic copper in varying proportions. When a dilute solution of cupric sulphate is employed, these products are accompanied by a quantity of a green substance, which consists of a mixture of basic hydrated sulphates of copper and magnesium. This substance is formed when a saturated solution of cupric sulphate is employed, but it decomposes again before the reaction is completed. The quantities of

cuprous oxide, copper, and hydrogen, were determined. The sum of the magnesium equivalents of the cuprous oxide, copper, and hydrogen obtained agrees very closely with the amount of magnesium employed in the experiment, so that the magnesium displaces from the solution of cupric sulphate substances which are chemically equivalent to it, though only a small and variable proportion of these substances consists of metallic copper.

Dr. MESSEL having inquired as to how the hydrogen was estimated,

Professor TILDEN remarked, amid some merriment, on the interest he had taken in the paper, and complimented the authors on their work, which, however, had been anticipated by the experiments of Commaille, thirty years ago, on the action of magnesium on neutral metallic salts, including copper sulphate. Moreover, he thought that they had missed the central point of their research. When magnesium is immersed in an aqueous solution of copper sulphate free from acid, there was first a precipitation of spongy metallic copper, which formed a copper-magnesium couple capable of decomposing water at common temperatures. Hydrogen was evolved, and a crust of magnesia formed on the surface of the metal. The copper salt was locally reduced by the hydrogen to the cuprous state, and this, in the presence of the magnesium oxide, led to the precipitation of cuprous oxide and of a basic cuprous salt. The green precipitate therefore consists of magnesia and basic cupric salt in varying proportion. He had thought for a moment that the metal was rendered inactive by a film of hydrogen, but had come to the conclusion that this was not the case.

Dr. CLOWES repudiated the notion that the paper had any "actuality," and said that the investigation was begun some two years ago, the irregular action of magnesium on the cupric solution having been noticed when he was drafting a laboratory curriculum for elementary students. He had found since that zinc behaves like magnesium in a hot solution of cupric sulphate, and believed that the method of determining chemical equivalents by immersing a metal in a solution of a metallic salt, was not of general application, even in the case when a reaction took place.

Mr. CAVEN had little to say in reply to the remarks made on the paper. The next paper was on the

## "PROPERTIES AND RELATIONSHIPS OF DIHYDROXY-TARTARIC ACID."

By H. J. H. Fenton, M.A.

This acid can now be readily obtained by oxidising dihydroxymaleic acid in presence of water. The author described the characters and reactions of the acid.

The last paper of the evening was on

## THE MOLECULAR ASSOCIATION OF LIQUIDS AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE OSMOTIC PRESSURE.

By Holland Crompton.

This was in the nature of a reply to some criticism on his recent paper. He claims that their arguments against him are really in his favour when their omissions are supplied.

There will be a ballot for the election of Fellows at the next meeting.

## Socialities.

THE Chemists' Assistants' Association had their first Cinderella dance this session in the Portman Rooms on Thursday evening of last week, Mr. C. W. Martin acting as M.C., and Bacon's quadrille band supplying the music. Dancing commenced at 7.30, about sixty couples taking the floor. Sixteen items were on the programme, and by midnight the dancers seemed loth to give it up. The new departure which includes the price of refreshments in the Cinderella subscription seemed to be generally appreciated. The next dance is to be held on Thursday, February 3.

## A STUDENTS' NIGHT.

The Pharmaceutical Football and Cricket Club held their annual smoking-concert in the Crown Room of the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday evening. Professor J. Norman Collie presided over an audience of some 250 persons, a goodly pro-



portion of whom were past students of the School of Pharmacy; the wholesale trade was also well represented. An apology for absence was noted from the President of the Pharmaceutical Society. The programme was a lengthy one and contained many excellent items, the comic element being particularly strong. Messrs. Bob Rae and Harry Hall in this connection appeared to be the favourites of the evening. During the interval votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman and to Mr. T. Edward Lescher, the success of the concert being in a great measure due to the efforts of the latter gentleman. The company separated about midnight.

The Imperial College of Chemistry, Ludgate Hill, held a smoking-concert on Wednesday evening at the Talbot, London Wall, E.C., under the directorship of the principal, Mr. Frederick Davis. Mr. John Lloyd (Baiss Brothers & Co.) was chairman during the first half of the programme, being succeeded by Mr. A. H. Solomon (Allen & Hanburys). Mr. Davis had arranged a capital musical programme, mostly professional artists being engaged. Among those who contributed were Messrs. J. Lloyd, Percy Trick, A. Foxon, G. E. Davis, Fred Davis, and others. Mr. W. B. Trick (Lewis & Barrows) wound up the entertainment with "At Brighton."

The East London Soap Works Cricket Club had their first annual dinner on November 20, at the City Arms, St. Mary Axe. Mr. T. Alexander Cook presided, and about fifty sat down. During the evening prizes presented by the firm were distributed by the chairman to the following champions:—Mr. J. Chapman (captain), 1st batting prize; Mr. H. Tuckham, 1st bowling prize; Mr. G. A. Briance, top score of the season; Mr. C. J. Firman, best all-round play; and Messrs. Bond, Rowlands, and Haigh, for general efficiency. In proposing success to the "E.L.S.W.C.C." the Chairman expressed his great regret that his father, Mr. E. R. Cook, had been unable to be present. The Chairman added, however, that the "firm" would continue to offer prizes each year for the best men. "Good players," said he, "make good workers." Mr. Martyn Cook (vice-president) in replying for the President and Vice-Presidents, expressed his satisfaction at being a V.P.E.L.S.W.C.C., and humorously remarked that he had never met another man with so long a title.

## The General Medical Council.

THE Medical Parliament is again in session. Sir William Turner, of Edinburgh, is presiding in the place of Sir Richard Quain, who sent a letter stating that, though his health had improved, he could not undertake the risk of presiding at the meetings during the present session. In the course of his communication Sir R. Quain referred as follows to the

### NEW PHARMACOPOEIA.

He said: With regard to the new edition of the British Pharmacopoeia, I have much pleasure in informing the Council that the arduous and important work of preparation, that has now occupied about three years, is well-nigh finished. The work is now practically complete, every question of principle having been decided; and if the Council will accept the draft which will be placed before them in the course of the present session, it will only be necessary to allow a short time for putting into action certain legal details, so that it might be confidently expected that the work may be published at an early date.

### UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

How to detail with the employment of unqualified assistants was the subject of a report presented by Mr. Bryant. From this it appeared that the Council had had the question of the illegitimate employment of unqualified assistants before them for fourteen years, and that of "covering unqualified persons" for more than ten years, and had by frequent advertisements in the medical papers during the last ten years, by censures in some cases, and removals from the register in other cases of a graver nature, proved to the members of the medical profession their entire disapproval of the employment of an unqualified assistant in the practice of

medicine, surgery, or midwifery on behalf and for the benefit of a registered practitioner, either in complete substitution for his own services, or in circumstances in which due personal supervision and control are not, or cannot be, exercised by such registered practitioner; and had also made it known that they regarded the practice of "covering" as "infamous conduct in a professional respect." It was recommended that:—

The Council now gave notice that on and after January 1, 1900, the employment of any unqualified assistant, in the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, will be treated as an offence under the Medical Act, and may be regarded as "infamous conduct in a professional respect," but with special proviso that such resolutions should not hinder any duly regulated training of pupils in medical schools or otherwise by legally qualified practitioners, nor the use of trained pupils in partially treating the sick or injured under the direction, supervision, and responsibility of such practitioners, nor any legitimate employment of nurses, midwives, or dispensers.

This led to a lengthy discussion which occupied several hours of both Tuesday and Wednesday. The difficulty was to draft a resolution so that the legitimate pupil would not be interfered with, nor even the legitimate unqualified assistant, whose duties were referred to by Mr. George Brown as "indoors," which means in many cases, as we have recently shown, breaking the Pharmacy Act. But it occurred to several members of the Council that if they were only going to take action in cases where an employer encouraged an unqualified person to pass himself off as qualified, they were going to do nothing new. And it seemed somewhat absurd to indicate that they would suspend action in such cases for two years. After several attempts had been made to frame a suitable resolution it was generally agreed that the best way of dealing with the question would be to leave it in such a state of indefiniteness that the discretion of the Council would be exercised on each case that came up. But it was resolved that a notice in reference to the employment of unqualified assistants be issued to every medical practitioner on the register, and that a copy thereof be in future given to every medical practitioner who in future is entered on the register.

An attempt was also made on Wednesday to commit the Council to a definite expression of opinion in opposition to any probable Midwives Registration Bill which might be brought forward next Session, but this was defeated by 16 votes to 6.

## New Companies and Company News.

**HARDENED GLASS AND BOTTLE COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (3,000 preference). Objects: To enter into an agreement with John T. H. Richardson, of Hatton, co. Derby, and to carry on the business of flint-glass manufacturers.

**THE VETERINARY MEDICINES COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Registered in Edinburgh with a capital of 2,000*l.*, divided into 1,500 5-per-cent. preference shares, and 500 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each, to carry on the business of medicine manufacturers and dealers, &c.

**AUGHT & CO. (LIMITED).**—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire William J. H. Aught's rights in connection with compositions applicable to saddlery, harness, and leather, and to manufacture, sell, and deal in varnishes, polishes, paints, chemicals, enamels, oils, colours, &c.

**OTTO-FREEZE TOILET-SOAP COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of perfume, lotion, and soap manufacturers carried on at 66 High Street, Camden Town, London, N.W., as "The Otto-Freeze Soap Company." Among the subscribers appears the name of Francis Savage, analytical chemist, of 66 High Street, Camden Town.

**VEJOS (LIMITED).**—Capital 50,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement with John Goodfellow, Julius Simpson, and the Investors' and Contract Agency (Limited), and to manufacture, sell, and deal in animal, vegetable, and other substances for use as food, also medicinal, chemical,



industrial, and other preparations. The first directors are A. L. Playfair, Wm. Watson, A. Mitchell, and R. L. Caunter.

**T. COOKE & SONS (LIMITED).**—Capital 70,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares (2,500 5*l.*-per-cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of engineers, opticians, and optical and scientific instrument manufacturers carried on at Buckingham Works, York, and at 8 Victoria Street, Westminster, as T. Cooke & Sons.

**THE IRON PIGMENT AND PRECIPITANT COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Registered in Edinburgh with a capital of 10,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares, to acquire the patent rights granted to Norman McCulloch, F.I.C., Glasgow, in connection with certain chemical processes, and to carry on business as chemical manufacturers, merchants, &c. Registered office, 82 West Nile Street, Glasgow.

**MINERAL-WATERS SHARES TRUST (LIMITED).**—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 100*l.* shares, to acquire options of purchasing mineral-water springs, to enter into an agreement with Edward M. Touzeau and Edmund W. Janson, and to acquire, sell, and deal in the shares, stock and securities of mineral-water manufacturing companies. Harris and Dixon are to act as managers, without remuneration, until the appointment of directors.

**THE APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS COMPANY** have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 5 per cent. on the preference.

**MEABY & CO. (LIMITED).**—On Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Wright, in the Chancery Division, a petition was presented in the matter of Meaby & Co. (Limited), of Reading, manufacturers of Triticumina specialities, by Mr. Alexander, Q.C., on behalf of a creditor, for a compulsory order to wind-up the company. The creditors and the debenture-holders were the only persons interested, and they, counsel said, supported the petition. Mr. Chitty (who appeared on behalf of the company) said he could not actually consent to the order, but he did not really oppose it. If the creditors thought they would be prejudiced by the voluntary winding-up, which was now in operation, he was willing to consent to a supervision order. A compulsory order was made.

**ELECTRO-CHEMICAL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—The annual meeting was held at St. Helens last week. Colonel Holland, C.B., who presided, stated that the company now had excellent engines and dynamos, and good workable plant. The machinery of five installations, amounting to 3,500 electrical horse-power, was at work, and arrangements had been made for a further 1,600 electrical horse-power. They were now turning out by their electrolytic process caustic soda, bleach, and chlorate of potash, at a cost for manufacture which left them a fair margin for profit. The present weekly output was about 70 tons of 70-per-cent. caustic soda, 130 tons of 37 to 38-per-cent. bleach, and 5 or 6 tons of chlorate of potash 99.8 per cent. There was a ready sale for all their products at good prices. The company had sold its Japan patent for 6,000*l.*, half of which amount had already been received in cash; the balance was payable next January. They had also sold their French, Belgian, and Russian patents for 37,000*l.*, and arrangements were being made for the sale of other foreign patents.

**THE CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).**—In the Chancery Division on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice North, the case of *Hole v. the Chemists' Association (Limited)* was heard in further consideration. Mr. Sargeant said there were two actions taken by debenture-holders, and under orders of the Court certain sums had already been paid to debenture-holders out of the assets of the Company. Since the date of the last payments there had been a sale of practically the only remaining assets of the Company, consisting of some leasehold property, and the proceeds had been brought into court. They amounted to about 2,200*l.*, which was far less than sufficient to pay the balance due to the holders of the second debentures. There was in addition a sum of 1,000*l.* due from two holders of second debentures on account of property purchased from the Company in the first-debenture holders' action. They gave bills at six months, which had matured, and were with the interest still unpaid. The minutes provided that the various sums should be brought into court and divided among the plaintiffs in pro-

portion to the amount of their debentures. The Company did not appear, and his Lordship gave his assent to the proposed minutes.

**BOOTS (LIMITED).**—For the year ending September 30 last the directors report an increase of 2,900*l.* over the previous year in the net profits, besides an addition of 2,000*l.* to the reserve fund. The directors therefore recommend a bonus of 2½ per cent. on all the ordinary and deferred shares issued up to September 30, 1897, in addition to the usual 10-per-cent. dividend. It is also proposed to again apply 500*l.* to the Branch-managers' (Chemists) Provident Fund. The reserve fund (including the 2,000*l.* which it is proposed to appropriate from the profits of the year and other additions since September 30, 1897) has now accumulated to nearly 30,000*l.* It is proposed to make a further issue of capital shortly to enable the board to continue its policy of purchasing suitable freehold premises in the place of short leases, and to develop the mineral-water department. The resignation of Alderman Duckworth (now M.P.) is alluded to, Mr. Duckworth stating that he is desirous of withdrawing from business responsibilities outside his own business. It is not proposed to fill his place on the directorate, which now consists of Mr. John Gibbs, of Bromley, Mr. W. B. Thorpe, of Lenton, Notts, and Mr. Jesse Boot, the managing director. The profit and loss account shows a net trading profit of 13,781*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* for the year (against 10,881*l.* 13*s.* last year), to which is added 1,037*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* balance brought from last year, making a total for division 14,819*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.* The dividends, bonus, addition to reserve, management-expenses, &c., absorb this amount less 808*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, which it is proposed to carry forward. The paid-up capital of the company amounts to 123,440*l.* The properties of the company (including goodwill) are valued at 153,483*l.* and the stock at 47,262*l.* A letter to the shareholders from the managing director accompanies the report, congratulating them "upon a report much better than any we have yet been able to lay before them." Mr. Boot also refers with personal regret to the resignation of his friend Mr. Alderman Duckworth, M.P., and alludes to the Branch-managers' (Chemists) Provident Fund, which was established last year with a gift of 500*l.* from the company and of 250*l.* from Mr. Boot himself. The directors recommend a further donation of 500*l.* this year, and Mr. Boot also promises an additional 250*l.*

## Trade Notes.

THREE incandescent gas-lights for 10*s.*, carriage paid, seems a good offer. It is made this week by Mr. W. Ritchie, 6 Wood Street Liverpool. The light is known as "The New 'Sun'."

A CHRISTMAS BONUS.—Mr. M. W. Carmichael, 158 New Bond Street, W., is offering this week (and during December) a dozen of 6*d.* amberlave and a showcard to those who buy 3*l.* worth of his seasonable specialities.

THE retail prices of Gerrard's almond-tablets, which are made by Messrs. Westmacott & Son, of Manchester, have been reduced from 1*s.* 1½*d.* and 7½*d.* to 1*s.* and 6*d.* per box. They are now put up in a new and pretty style of tin box.

MESSRS. MAY, ROBERTS & Co. are now attaching a coupon to each box of Dr. John Hooper's Female Pills, and to encourage the sale of these they offer prizes of 5*l.* 5*s.*, 3*l.* 3*s.*, and 2*l.* 2*s.* to the three persons who send to them the largest number of these coupons before June 30, 1898.

MAWSON'S FILTERS.—In referring to these filters last week we spoke of the filtering-medium as a "loose charcoal" one. It is but fair to the Mawson Filter Company that we should explain that their filtering-medium is one of special composition, and that animal charcoal alone has not its properties, and should not be used in place of it.

"MARVEL" ENEMA.—Under this name Messrs. Lynch & Co. have introduced a new moulded enema (red rubber, throughout) to compete with the cheap sheet-rubber enemas which have lately flooded the market. The "Marvel" is properly vulcanised, and does not become hard in cold



weather, or lose its elasticity. The sheet-rubber articles generally do.

MR. M. LINDNER, of 170 Fleet Street, E.C., agent for "The Easy" sign-marker, for printing effectively showcards and window-tickets, has introduced an improvement in connection with his box of type and appurtenances, which enables the operator to print his type on a curve, by means of the patent circle gauge.

HOLLOWAY'S ALMANAC, which is given away or sent to any address on receipt of a halfpenny stamp, is a well-produced brochure with a series of pictures representing sport in its various aspects. It contains also some medical advice the nature of which can be calculated. It may be interesting to the Medical Council to know that "a fully qualified physician attends at 78 Oxford Street daily (Saturdays excepted), from 11 to 4, and may be consulted free of charge either personally or by letter."

PADLOCK-SEAL.—Mr. C. Melin, 37 Crutchedfriars, E.C., has recently introduced a new sanitary milk jar or bottle, which is made of white flint-glass including the stopper. The latter closes with a padlock-clasp, and as a necessary adjunct to it he offers the padlock-seal which is figured here. The seal is easily and quickly applied, and it may be used for many purposes besides milk bottles and cans. The seals are made of soft

metal, and cost 7s. a thousand.

ENULE.—Under this name Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. are about to issue a series of suppositories of the shape devised by Mr. H. S. Wellcome three years ago, and then communicated by him to the American Pharmaceutical Association. The suppository is club shaped, whereby it is much easier introduced into the rectum, and on that account the shape has become popular in America. Mr. Wellcome's firm have made no trade use of the idea up to the present; hence there is a certain degree of interest attached to the present move. If the shape becomes popular through the enule, we shall all understand why.

SALOL PALATINOIDS.—Salol has been used with considerable success for some years in the treatment of typhoid fever, many observers having found that it is an efficient intestinal antiseptic. Dr. Herbert Brawell is one of the latest to confirm these observations, and, writing to the *British Medical Journal* a month ago, he insists upon the salol being used in powder form, as non-disintegrating tablets may pass through the intestines unchanged. In consequence of this observation Messrs. Oppenheimer, Sons & Co. (Limited), 14 Worship Street, E.C., have introduced a 5-gr. salol palatinoid in which the drug lies as a loose powder. To this method of administering the drug there can be no objection.

PEARS' ANNUAL has taken its place in the front rank of the Christmas issues which have become such a prominent feature of periodical literature. By lavish expenditure on pictures and literature Messrs. Pears have won a popularity for their Annual which seems to defy competition. Their issue for 1898 is a perfect marvel. It contains a long story by R. E. Francillon, and a short one by E. M. Hewitt, both well illustrated; and, in addition, five coloured illustrations humorously representing the five senses, five hunting pictures in colours also of a humorous character, "A Quiet Game of Nap" in two full-page pictures, and two large oleographs reproducing Millais' noted paintings "Bubbles" and "Cherry Ripe," each of them 28 inches by 19 inches, and representing with the perfection which modern methods admit of these works of the master. We are not surprised to see that the trade has taken up the whole supply of this Annual, and we should think it will not be long before the public has absorbed every copy.

HUMANISED AND STERILISED MILK.—The business possibilities of these products have not been so fully appreciated by chemists and druggists as they deserve to be. We know several in the trade who, by a little push and trouble to begin with, have established a regular daily trade in supplying sterilised and humanised milk to customers. It is a

perfectly legitimate business for retail chemists to undertake, because such milk is generally recommended by doctors, who are pleased to tell their patients that it can be got at the chemist's near by. The Milk-preparations Company, Brentwood, offer to supply chemists with their preparations on liberal terms. The company put up humanised milk, peptonised milk, sterilised milk, sterilised cream, &c., the whole being produced under the superintendence of Mr. R. W. Woosnam, F.I.C., F.C.S. They make a point of sterilising the milk as soon as it comes from the cow—i.e., in the country, where there are fewer pathogenic micro-organisms than in urban districts—and all stages in the production of the preparations are carefully and scientifically carried out. We have examined the humanised milk made by the company, and find it to closely approximate to mothers' milk. It is put up in patent spring stoppered bottles. We understand that this company's sterilised milk is used at the Maidstone relief-stations at the rate of 750 pints per week. The company undertake to make any milk-food prescribed by medical men, and supply it regularly in the patent aseptic bottles which they use solely for distribution.

## A Song for Druggists.

OLD druggists befooled by the notion  
Of profits so easy to own,  
Instead of the old-fashioned potion  
Sold patents, and that's why they groan.

*Chorus.*

Bring back, bring back,  
Bring back my profits to me, to me,  
Oh, bring back my profits to me.

For years at face-price in full glory,  
They've pushed off the patents galore.  
Alas! what a change in their story  
Now they're undersold by "The Store."

*Chorus.*

The cutter now ruling the prices  
The public lets into the know.  
He cuts off the profit in slices,  
And boasts of his charity show.

*Chorus.*

The P.A.T.A., full of fighting,  
Once swore all the cutters to kill;  
Despite all the talk and the writing  
The cutters cut merrily still.

*Chorus.*

And makers and dealers are raising  
The cost-price of patents so high;  
And cutting so low down comes grazing,  
No profit between them can lie.

*Chorus.*

But take ye a hint from the cutter—  
That store-keeping cutter so sly,  
Who uses cut-prices and "butter."  
To sell your own lines, you should try.

*Chorus.*

'Twill surely bring back,  
Bring back the profits to you, to you,  
Oh, bring back the profits to you.

"KEEN RIDICULE: an Audacious Britisher Caricatures Our Noble Associations—International Relations Severely Strained." That is the heading which the *Bulletin of Pharmacy* gives to its reprint of the article on "American Associations" which we printed on September 11.

A MATTER OF OPINION.—Dr. William L. Baum, an American, in looking through the list of about 1,000 official products eligible for medicinal administration, found only between eighty and ninety which are suitable for tablet administration without suffering loss of therapeutic value by manipulation; and a great portion of this number were powdered drugs, such as senega and buchu, seldom, if ever, used in tablet form.



## The P.A.T.A.

### MEETING AT DERBY.

A MEETING of the chemists of Derby was held at the Royal Hotel in that town on November 18 under the auspices of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, Mr. Glyn-Jones, of London, attending in order to lay before the meeting the objects and benefits of that organisation. Mr. J. A. Cope was voted to the chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. J. C. Warrington, F. P. Pemberton, Harold Hoare, Dawson (Clifton & Dawson), Heath, Hefford, W. Harvey, Bolton, Eberlin, and Gascoyne, the latter three coming from Nottingham.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, remarked that the subject they were met to discuss concerned them all very intimately, and was one in which they should take a great interest. It was important to them all, and he trusted they would realise the advantage of a trade protection society, which he had no doubt they would do if the movement proved the means of chemists obtaining a living profit. (Applause.)

Mr. Glyn-Jones addressed the meeting at length, and said he was not at all disheartened by the small attendance, because those who knew anything about the drug-trade were aware that it was exceedingly difficult to secure anything like a large attendance of chemists, many of whom worked practically single-handed. There were twenty-four chemists in Derby altogether, and he had called upon them all, with one or two exceptions, and he was pleased to say that the majority were most favourably disposed towards the P.A.T.A. That Association had been formed to fight the great evil of cutting prices—there could be no two opinions that it was a great and a growing evil—and he need scarcely add that if any town in the country after Nottingham knew anything of this evil, that town was Derby. Some chemists did not recognise or realise the side issues and difficulties connected with this question of cutting, and apart altogether from the question of profit, the Association wished to prove that it would be of the greatest possible advantage to chemists to be able to feel secure that in charging a certain price they were charging one below which no trader could cut. No better testimonial to the efficiency of their movement could be given than the recent frantic efforts of their opponents to prove that the P.A.T.A. had been a failure. After pointing out the advantage of having a fixed price, and contending that if they had one they would stand very much better as a trade in the eyes of the public, Mr. Glyn-Jones went on to observe that the number and range of proprietary articles in their business was daily on the increase, and it was essential that they should make a profit on the sale of those articles, and not merely act as so many penny-in-the-slot machines. It was dishonest to practically charge nothing for one article in the hope of making good the loss by charging a higher price for something else, and in order to carry out a proper scheme they must get the manufacturer to step in and stop men conducting their businesses upon unfair and unscrupulous lines. In conclusion, he touched upon the apathy of the trade in Derby and other places, and referred to the necessity of having a local association to guard their interests, adding that their chief object was to insist upon having a fair profit, and one moreover which would pay them to distribute the goods. (Applause.)

The Chairman said he was sure all present must be convinced of the value of the Association after listening to the arguments of Mr. Glyn-Jones. It was only by universal support that the P.A.T.A. could succeed in achieving its purpose, and they in Derby, though not a numerous body, could do their share in helping to obtain their desideratum. He was quite of opinion that they should form a local association, so that they could meet together and talk over matters affecting their trade. The old proverb that "unity is strength" applied strongly in their case, and if they formed an association in Derby they would be in touch with pharmacists throughout the country, with the result that an interchange of opinions and ideas must be of great value to the trade generally. Now was the time to make up their minds to make the thing a success, and he had no doubt that the other chemists of Derby would come and help the movement forward.

Mr. Bolton, of Nottingham, followed with a speech relative to the advantages of the P.A.T.A., and said the experience of Nottingham chemists was that that body was doing a good work, so much so that he had not heard anyone utter a single regret at becoming a member. He trusted the chemists of Derby would be fully alive to their interests in this matter, and said it would be the height of foolishness for them to hold aloof from the P.A.T.A. Before very long it would considerably improve their status, and the members of the Nottingham Association would be delighted to come to Derby and give any assistance they could in the formation of an association there.

Mr. Cope then proposed—

That this meeting of the chemists of Derby and district expresses its approval of the aim and objects of the P.A.T.A., and urges upon all proprietors the advisability of co-operating with the movement.

Mr. Dawson seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Glyn-Jones, having announced that Mr. Monkhouse was unable to be present, but that he would be pleased to fall in with the wishes of the meeting, the Chairman proposed that those present form themselves into a provisional committee for the formation of a local association; and this was seconded by Mr. Hoare, who said it was a crying shame that the chemists of Derby should be twenty-nine years behind Nottingham in the matter of an association to guard their interests. The motion was carried unanimously, and Mr. Dawson promised to convene a meeting at an early and convenient date.

Mr. Gascoyne and Mr. Eberlin (Nottingham) then delivered addresses. Mr. Gascoyne said the opposition to the P.A.T.A. came from the right quarter, and he was surprised that the big cutters had not taken more pains to conceal their evident alarm. Mr. Eberlin, drawing on his experience as Secretary of the Nottingham Association, advised the Derby chemists not to have too many meetings, and always to take care to have a good agenda to discuss.

The Chairman tendered the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Glyn-Jones for his presence; and the Chairman was also thanked.

### MEETING AT LEEDS.

A MEETING of persons in Leeds and district connected with the sale of proprietary photographic apparatus was held at the Grand Hotel, Leeds, on November 19. The chair was occupied by Mr. Denham (Denham & Pearson, Leeds), and among those present were Mr. Alderman Wilson (ex-Mayor of Harrogate), Messrs. Jackson (Harrison & Parkinson, Bradford), Cardwell (Brighouse), Glyn-Jones (London), and a number of Leeds chemists and photographic dealers.

The Chairman spoke of what had already been done by the photographic-plate makers in regard to cutting, which had already proved a good thing for the trade. He thought the next best thing to do was to get the plate-makers to join the Association. They, however, did not seem disposed to join collectively, but there was no reason why they should not be approached individually. Undoubtedly any plate-maker joining this Society would get the support of the dealers. The cameras of one or two firms must be sold at the list-price, and could not be sold any cheaper. They could not expect to regulate the price of all goods, but they might reasonably hope to get a uniform price for certain of the articles they sold, and the members ought to push the articles of those who joined them. His firm would certainly refuse to sell goods which were cut in the town at drug-stores.

Mr. Glyn-Jones explained the character of the Association, and stated what had been done in regard to photographic materials. A circular was sent out early in the year to all interested in the photographic trade convening a meeting in London, at which they had a large and representative gathering. It was there clearly demonstrated that a necessity existed for a photographic section of the P.A.T.A. Some little time before there had been a movement among the manufacturers of photographic plates and papers for the very commendable object of protecting their own profits. They, as manufacturers, had of course a perfect right to combine to protect themselves as to the price at which goods



should be placed on the market. A plan was introduced by which dealers who cut photographic plates and papers should not be allowed to get any of them. But although plates and papers were a very important part of the photographic trade, they were very far from constituting the whole of the goods sold by photographic dealers. They were anxious not to take any step which would appear antagonistic to the big makers of plates and papers as they hoped to secure their co-operation. Negotiations had been carried on which culminated in a deputation being received by the plate and paper makers from the P.A.T.A. They strongly urged these makers to federate with the P.A.T.A., but it appeared from a letter which their secretary had sent him that they preferred to work independently. Still, he thought they might secure the support of some members of the Plate and Paper Makers' Association individually. Some of them, besides being manufacturers of plates and papers were also manufacturers of sundries. They had a right to approach them, as manufacturers of cameras, and it was for that meeting to discuss what would be the best course to adopt. The P.A.T.A.'s intention was to call together in various parts of the country, wherever practical, those who were interested in photographic materials, with a view to being able to bring pressure to bear upon the proprietors in this direction.

After speeches from Mr. Alderman Wilson, Harrogate, and Mr. Jackson (Bradford), the Chairman proposed:

That this meeting desires to thank the members of the Photographic Plate and Paper Makers' Association for the steps they have taken to secure dealers a living profit, and would respectfully point out to them that retailers are anxious to secure their support as members of the photographic section of the P.A.T.A., and are of opinion that by joining that section they would be more likely to secure the fullest support of retail dealers.

Mr. Cardwell (Brighouse) seconded the resolution, which was carried. On the motion of Mr. Yewdall (Leeds), seconded by Mr. Jackson (Bradford), Mr. Denham was appointed local secretary for the P.A.T.A. photographic section.

#### MEETING AT SCARBOROUGH.

ON Monday, November 22, an enthusiastic meeting of Scarborough chemists was held at the Albemarle Hotel. Nearly every chemist in the town was present, and the few who could not make it convenient to attend had previously expressed their sympathy with the objects of the meeting. Mr. Richard Reynolds (Leeds) and Mr. Glyn Jones (London) were also present.

Mr. John Whitfield, F.C.S., was elected to the chair, and after having stated the need for some such action as the P.A.T.A. took, introduced Mr. Glyn Jones, who fully described the aims of the Association. He commented on the large proportion of the turnover which came from the sale of proprietary articles, this term including patent medicines. A united trade could with considerable effect approach the manufacturers, and urge them to put their articles on the P.A.T.A. list and ensure the retailer getting at least a living profit. Some said the sale of proprietary articles did not affect them, but he had never met a chemist who relied on pure pharmacy alone for a living. Having dealt with the opposition expressed in the correspondence columns of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, he contended that this was the best proof of the power of the P.A.T.A. The effect of such opposition was that they, as an association, were receiving a large addition to their ranks.

Mr. Cross moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting of the chemists of Scarborough expresses its strong approval of the aims and objects of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, and urged upon all proprietors the advisability of their co-operating with the movement.

Mr. Foster seconded the resolution, and Messrs. Longden and Chapman supported it, all expressing their hearty agreement with the principles on which the Association was proceeding.

Mr. Birch said he had ceased to stock several important proprietaries because they were sold at cost-price and the proprietors took no steps to protect the profits. He thought

if many chemists were to follow that course proprietors would have to ensure a profit.

Mr. George Whitfield commended the Sanitas Company's action in asking the opinion of their customers as to the desirability of putting their goods on the list, and hoped chemists would not omit to send their opinions.

Mr. Richard Reynolds (Leeds), who was cordially welcomed, said it gave him the greatest pleasure to be there and to say that in his opinion it was only by such combinations that the retail trade could be saved. They in Leeds had been strong supporters of the P.A.T.A. for twelve months, and the Leeds chemists, he believed, were to-day more than ever in favour of it.

After some further speaking, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gilchrist was appointed Hon. Local Secretary.

The following gentlemen were elected a committee to form a local chemists' association:—Messrs. Chapman, Clare, Cross, Longden, Gilchrist, and George Whitfield (convenor).

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Gregory, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Glyn-Jones.

## Legal Reports.

### THE SACCHARIN COMPANY v. THE CHEMICAL AND DRUGS COMPANY (LIMITED).

IN the Chancery Division on Friday last, before Mr. Justice North, Mr. Moulton, Q.C., again mentioned a motion which he had in this case, and which last week came before Mr. Justice Romer. The motion was to restrain the infringement of a patent relating to saccharin, but he had some difficulty in bringing it on, as the other side, contrary to an undertaking which had been given, had filed no affidavits. Counsel for the defendants denied that any such undertaking was given. He had promised to let his learned friend have copies of the affidavits if possible. He would offer to give an undertaking for a month or until the trial, but he should require a cross-undertaking as to damages. Mr. Moulton then asked that the case should stand over for a week, he stating that he should certainly bring it on next Friday. His Lordship ordered the case to stand over accordingly.

### BEECHAM'S PILLS.

IN the Chancery Division on Friday, before Mr. Justice North, the case of Beecham v. Pemberton was heard on a motion for an injunction to restrain the defendant, Frederick Paul Pemberton, chemist and druggist, of 67 London Road, Derby, from selling or offering for sale as Beecham's pills pills not manufactured by the plaintiff. The defendant submitted to a perpetual injunction and to pay an agreed sum as damages and costs.

### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

#### TINCTURE OF RHUBARB.

AARON CUTTS, grocer, of Brimington, was on Saturday fined 5s. and costs by the Chesterfield County Magistrates for selling tincture of rhubarb which was deficient of 10 per cent. proof spirit and 33 per cent. of its solid ingredients and devoid of saffron.

#### BORACIC ACID AND BUTTER.

THE Salisbury County Magistrates had before them last week a charge against Frank Bailey, grocer, of Broad Chalk, for having sold butter which had been adulterated with 0.22 per cent. of boracic acid. The proceedings were taken under the 6th section of the Act. For the defence, Ernest Chapman, a provision-trade traveller, said the boracic acid was used solely as a preservative, and Mr. Wm. Blinkhorn, chemist, stated that the amount of boracic used could not be injurious to health. The Bench dismissed the case.

#### OLIVE OIL.

AT Woburn Police Court, on November 19, Wm. Chas. Emery, drug-dealer, was prosecuted for selling olive oil



which the public analyst certified contained 80 per cent. of cotton-seed oil. Defendant explained that the police were served by an apprentice. He was fined 10s. and 21s. 6d. costs.

#### CAMPHORATED OIL.

At Dudley Police Court, on November 19, Mary Ann Smith, general dealer, was summoned for selling camphorated oil which was certified to be only half the strength laid down by the British Pharmacopœia. Mr. Deeley (who defended) said there was no mention in the B.P. of camphorated oil. It only mentioned camphor liniment. The inspector asked for camphorated oil, and he was supplied with it. Mr. Barradale (Magistrates' Clerk) did not think there could be a conviction. Mr. Warrington (the Town Clerk, who prosecuted) said in that case the whole protection of the Act was frittered away. Mr. Barradale said it was an important case to the public, but to sustain a conviction the prosecution must produce evidence to show that camphorated oil and the camphor liniment described by the British Pharmacopœia were one and the same. Eventually the case was adjourned for evidence.

#### THE SALE OF POISONED GRAIN.

At the Halesworth Petty Sessions, on November 18, Samuel Bullen, Bungay, vermin-killer, was charged with selling to John Gowing grain steeped in poison. Mr. Napier, county analyst, stated that the grain had been steeped in strychnine, and was calculated to destroy life. Defendant, who said the grain was not poisoned, was fined 10l. and costs, 2l. 4s. 6d., in default of distress six weeks' imprisonment, this being the eighth conviction on similar charges.

#### MANCHESTER CHEMICAL LAW.

THE Pomona Chemical Company, of Cornbrook, Manchester, have been summoned before the Magistrates at the instance of the inspector of factories, for not complying with a special Act of Parliament with reference to chemical-works, which provides that any pot or pan should be covered, for the safety of those who were employed at the works, and should be 3 feet in height. Inspector Rogers had visited the works after hearing of the death of one of the workmen who had fallen into a pan of Epsom salts which had neither been covered nor railed round. "Had the provisions of the Act been observed," said the inspector, "the accident would not have happened." A copy of the rule had been sent to the defendants, but this was denied by Mr. Jordan, barrister, who appeared for them. The Stipendiary Magistrate (Mr. J. M. Yates, Q.C.) said this was an important part of the case, and adjourned the matter for a fortnight.

## Bankruptcies and Failures.

*Re* HERBERT LACY, trading as E. Lacy & Co., 156 Whitechapel Road, E., Chemist and Druggist.

THIS bankrupt was examined at the London Bankruptcy Court on November 19, before Mr. Registrar Linklater. The accounts filed show total liabilities 847l. 12s. 10d., of which 477l. 9s. 6d. are treated as unsecured, and assets 1,000l. 3s. 11d., subject to preferential claims of 120l. 3s. 4d. There is therefore an estimated surplus of 402l. 11s. 1d.

Replying to Mr. Howell, Assistant-Receiver, the bankrupt said his father died in 1886, and he subsequently managed for his mother two businesses carried on at 94 and 156 Whitechapel Road, in which he had a third share, after his sisters had been paid out. In June, 1896, he took over the business at No. 156, and traded there on his own account until the failure. The value of the business taken over was about 1,250l., and in return he discharged outstanding liabilities to the amount of 450l., besides paying a sum of 265l., which he obtained by mortgaging the lease of the premises. Since June, 1896, he had had nothing to do with the business at 94 Whitechapel Road. His capital proved insufficient to keep the business going after paying off the

old debt, and in October, being pressed by two creditors, and the landlord having taken possession, witness consulted his creditors, at whose request he filed his petition. His accounts showed a surplus of assets over liabilities, but he had valued the goodwill at 1,000l. He understood that the business had been disposed of by the trustee, and was being carried on by the purchaser. No books of account had been kept, witness relying upon the invoices and statements. He had had eighteen years' previous experience before starting on his own account. The failure was caused by want of capital. If he could have found a partner the business could have been continued at a good profit, but matters came suddenly to a head, and he could not stand against the rush.

The examination was ordered to be concluded. The following are the principal creditors, viz. :—

#### Unsecured.

	£	s.	d.
Baiss Bros. & Co., 4 Jewry Street, E.C.	167	0	0
Chemist's Aërated Water Company, 45 Gifford Street, N. ...	15	0	0
Crowther & Co., 14 Whitechapel Road, E.	10	0	0
Fell & Briant, 16 Glasshouse Yard, Aldersgate Street, E.C. ...	23	0	0
Gret, L. A., 12 Trinity Square, E.C. ...	20	0	0
Hocken, Wilson & Co., 15 New Inn Yard, Tottenham Court Road ...	15	1	9
Horner & Son, Mitre Square, Aldgate ...	41	18	5
Jourdain & Co., 35 Walbrook, E.C. ...	10	0	0
Sharp Bros., Red Lion Square, Holborn	12	11	10
Trent Bros., Baker's Row, Whitechapel	14	12	6
Vanheems, M., Berners Street, Oxford Street, W. ...	79	0	0
Youldon, E., Great Garden Street, Whitechapel ...	21	0	0

#### Fully Secured.

Taylor, Mrs., care of Colman & Knight, Solicitors, Raymond Buildings, Gray's Inn ...	250	0	0
--	-----	---	---

#### Preferential.

Rent ...	75	0	0
Rates and Wages ...	44	3	4

*Re* BENJAMIN ROBINSON, Hogsthorpe, near Boston, Drug-dealer.

THIS debtor's public examination was opened at the Boston Bankruptcy Court on November 18. The statement presented by the Official Receiver showed gross liabilities amounting to 221l. 5s. 5d. and assets estimated to realise 103l. 0s. 9d. The debtor stated that he commenced business at Hogsthorpe in May 1896 with a capital of 187l. He had kept a ledger and day-book. The greater part of the furniture on his premises belonged to his wife, who bought it prior to their marriage. His other goods were sold by auction and realised 25l. 10s. 7d. The examination was adjourned for a full cash account to be furnished.

*Re* MACVEAN, GENTLE & Co., Billiter Square Buildings, E.C., East India Merchants.

AT the London Bankruptcy Court, on November 19, the public examination of E. C. Y. Macvean and John Gentle, trading as above, was held. The statement shows liabilities 1,276l. 8s. 6d., and assets 16l. 14s. 4d. Examined by Mr. Howell, Assistant-Receiver, Macvean stated that he entered into partnership with Gentle in 1894 with a capital of 1,500l. provided by his partner's mother. That lady subsequently found other sums for the business, amounting altogether to 6,800l., which was treated as a gift to her son, and not as a partnership liability. The failure was due to loss on the trading by falling markets, depreciation in silver, and continuous depression in trade. The bulk of the losses was caused by fall in stock held in London, and not by forward purchases. It was the general custom in the trade to hold a considerable amount of stock. They had held as much as 10,000l. of stock at one time, but since the beginning of 1896 their purchases had been curtailed. At first the business was successful, but since 1895 it had been invariably unsuccessful. The trading was continued, as they relied upon an improvement in the markets. Had they been



left alone for another month they would have been from 1,500*l.* to 2,000*l.* better off. They had deposited stock with brokers and bankers, who had advanced money upon it. The usual rate of advances was 75 per cent. of the cost price, but in some instances they had obtained 100 per cent. A portion of the present liabilities was in respect of those transactions, the goods having been sold at a loss under a forced realisation. A loss of 750*l.* had been sustained on Stock Exchange speculations, but that was a year or two ago.

Mr. Gentle was also examined, and confirmed generally his partner's evidence.

The examination was concluded.

## Deeds of Arrangement.

**Hatton, John**, Market Gate, and Fairfield House, Manchester Road, Warrington, chemist and druggist. Trustee, Arthur Bennett, Warrington, chartered accountant. Dated November 12; filed November 19. Secured creditors, 1,765*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*; liabilities unsecured, 1,551*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*; estimated net assets, 2,003*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool .. .. .	42	0	0
Barron, Harveys & Co., London .. .. .	77	0	0
Beaufoy & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	23	0	0
Blundell, Spence & Co., Hull .. .. .	72	0	0
Brook & Hirst, Leeds .. .. .	18	0	0
Dutton, J. & W., Warrington .. .. .	53	0	0
Evans, R., & Co., St. Helen's .. .. .	10	0	0
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	102	0	0
Ellis, R., & Son, Ruthin .. .. .	26	0	0
Gossage, W., & Sons, Widnes .. .. .	10	0	0
Hodgkinsons, Clarke & Ward, London .. .. .	69	0	0
Holzkinson, W. (Limited), Warrington .. .. .	17	0	0
Houlgrave, P., & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	14	0	0
Leach, — (Representatives of), Bolton .. .. .	323	0	0
Maw, Son, & Thompson, London .. .. .	37	0	0
Meggesson & Co., London .. .. .	10	0	0
Milling, H., & Co. (Limited), Warrington .. .. .	11	0	0
Preston, R., & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	46	0	0
Rimmer, Miss, Warrington .. .. .	27	0	0
Schweppé & Co., Liverpool .. .. .	24	0	0
Singleton & Stephenson, Warrington .. .. .	16	0	0
Smith & Bateson, Liverpool .. .. .	15	0	0
Sutton, W., & Co., London .. .. .	10	0	0
Taylor & Son, Sale .. .. .	11	0	0
Thompson, J., Liverpool .. .. .	33	0	0
Woods, W., & Son, Warrington .. .. .	11	0	0

## Business Changes.

*Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.*

**MR. T. B. ROWELL**, chemist and druggist, of Humshaugh-on-Tyne, is about to commence business at Haydon Bridge, near Carlisle.

**MESSRS. WOOD BROTHERS & Co.**, of the Borough Flint-glass Works, Barnsley, have moved their London office from 31 to 24 Hatton Garden.

**MR. EVAN JONES**, chemist and druggist, 42 Station Road, Llanelly, has opened a branch establishment opposite the Station Hotel in that town.

**MR. F. P. BALLARD**, of Wootton Bassett, has purchased through the agency of Messrs. Berdow & Co., the business of Mr. W. Ballard, at High Street, Cricklade.

**MR. W. RIGBY**, chemist, Barnsley, has removed from 148 Sheffield Road to larger premises on the opposite side of the road, which have been fitted in the best style.

**MR. T. MCCALL WHITE** has sold the business at 14 King Street, Wigton, which he has carried on for twenty-eight years, to Mr. W. H. Younghusband, who has for some time acted as his assistant.

**MR. W. H. WILLIAMS**, of Bethesda, N. Wales, has purchased, through the agency of Messrs. Berdow & Co., the two

business, lately carried on by Mr. G. Baxter, at 69 Bridge Street and Victoria Square, Worksop.

**MR. W. M. LANGTON** (late of Langton, Edden & Co.) has entered into partnership with Mr. L. J. Fort, and the firm of Langton, Fort & Co. have taken premises at 20 St. Dunstan's Hill and 1 Cross Lane, where they will carry on business as wholesale and export druggists.

**THE premises of the Drug and Dispensing Stores**, 26 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, have been greatly enlarged and refitted, the work having been done on the premises by the company's staff. The interior is lighted by electricity, and outside are two arc lights of 4,000 candle power.

**THE shop occupied by Mr. J. Jarvis Rainey**, Church Street Spilsby, has been completely and very successfully refitted by Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., of Liverpool. A novel feature is the ceiling, which is made of stamped steel and put up, by the London Steel Ceiling Company, 26 St. Martin's Street, London, whose agent, Mr. Daubney, resides in Spilsby. Mr. Rainey has also added a new warehouse to the back of his premises.

## Personalities.

**PROFESSOR JAMES DEWAR**, F.R.S., president of the Chemical Society, has received the Jubilee medal.

**MR. W. HARRISON MARTINDALE**, son of Mr. William Martindale, New Cavendish Street, W., obtained his degree of Ph.D. at Marburg University on November 18.

**DR. DANFORD THOMAS**, the North London Coroner, is one of those who have received the Jubilee medal from the Queen. He has received it in his capacity as a Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel of the Volunteer force.

**MR. F. MARSH**, chemist and druggist, who has just left Westgate-on-Sea for Torquay, has been presented by the members of Christ Church (Congregational), with which he was for some years connected, and in which he was a hard worker, with an elegant drawing-room clock as a parting gift.

**MR. G. A. GRIERSON**, of the firm of Coverdale & Grierson, wholesale druggists, Lincoln, has been awarded fifth prize (5*l.* 5*s.*) in the competition which the Eastman Company conducted for photographs taken on their films and with their cameras. There were some 25,000 pictures sent in. Mr. Grierson's photograph, "The Children's Corner, Bridlington," showed a group of children playing on the sands, with the sea-wall, &c., in the background.

## Marriage.

**SIMON—CASTLE**.—On November 22, at St. Oswald's Church, Chester, by the Rev. E. C. Lowndes, M.A., vicar, Mr. John Simon, chemist and druggist, to Angie, youngest daughter of Mr. John Castle, late of the I.C.S.

## Deaths.

**ADAMS**.—On November 19, Mr. William Henry Adams, chemist and druggist, of Stoke-upon-Trent. Aged 54. Mr. Adams retired from business some years ago.

**ALLCOCK**.—On November 13, Mr. Allcock, chemist and grocer, Brook Street, Derby.

**DAVISON**.—On November 19, at Cromer, Ada, the beloved wife of Daniel Davison, pharmaceutical chemist. Aged 30.

**HURD**.—On November 12, Mr. William Hurd, chemist and druggist, Uttoxeter. Aged 32.

**MOSES**.—On November 10, Mr. Henson Moses, chemist and druggist, Liverpool. Aged 43.

**SMITH**.—On November 5, Mr. John Smith, chemist and druggist, Bridlington. Aged 73.





THE shop-windows begin to take on a Christmas look, but so far they have not given much indication as to what the specialties of the season will be. These are still held, to a large extent at least, by wholesalers, and although we described most of the advance patterns a month or two since, many have come in which are worthy of attention. That, at least, is the report which Our Town Traveller brings us from the City warehouses. He also mentions that business is better than it has been any other time this year. After the first quarter things began to quieten down until the Jubilee time, when a point of depression was reached which is rarely touched. It stayed there until the end of the holiday season, and began to recover early in September. The improvement has continued, and before the end of the year many will have made up what they lost. One of the most varied exhibits of

#### CHEMISTS' CHRISTMAS GOODS

in London, writes Our Town Traveller, is in Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson's, 11 Aldersgate Street. The principal showroom is much the same as usual, full of staples with a few recent novelties, but behind the scenes in Mr. Carter's department I inspected such a wealth of new goods that it is difficult to know where to begin. I cannot be wrong, however, in calling special attention to the new series of perfume-sprays which I saw in the fitting-process. There are new patterns, chiefly in cut glass and in rainbow tints, although some, e.g. the "Tomato," are in single colours graduated to quite pale tints. The "Tomato" is a cunning-shaped spray, and is likely to take well; the base is in the parallel lines which mark a fashionable taste just now. Much variety of shape and cutting is shown in the rainbow-tinted sprays, and I am sorry that the engraver has not come to my aid in depicting a few of these. The "Thistle" is the only one I can trust myself to refer to, as everyone can make a mental picture of its shape. The capacity of the "Thistle" is about 2 oz., the exterior is beautifully cut, and the tints are uranium green, mauve, red, blue, purple (from gold), and three or four more. These are the predominant colours, for in each case they blend off like the spectrum. The wave of enthusiasm for things Scotch is likely to make the "Thistle" a favourite spray during Christmastide. Besides the cut-glass sprays are some patterns in white flint and tinted glass with floral designs in coloured enamel. All these are to be fitted with the new pipette bellows, which differs from the double-ball in that the reservoir is a tiny pipette-like swelling of the black-rubber tube, so that when the bellows is worked the pipette gives a more continuous and stronger stream of air than the larger ball. Celluloid goods are not second in importance and variety to these sprays—indeed, the ingenuity displayed in adapting this material to toilet-purposes is remarkable. A goodly number of new things at prices ranging from 6d. to a guinea are available for Christmas trade. In the sixpenny lines I noted a small reading-glass in celluloid frame with end-piece for cord, and several pocket-mirrors. Next comes a clever new adaption of celluloid to tooth-brush manufacture, called the "Comilo." I understand that this is not celluloid throughout, but that the "Comilo" compound is moulded upon a core whereby great strength is given to the handle. The feature of the brushes, however, is their artistic finish. The handles are round, oval, square, or flat, and each one is moulded in relief—e.g., one looks like a palm stem, another has medallions of flowers, and so on. While I was looking at these, Mr. Carter placed on the counter a card of celluloid combs—exquisite imitations of

tortoiseshell, and each tooth polished. I saw the remains also of a big stock of amber celluloid goods. These are made of a transparent celluloid the colour of dark amber. Hair-brushes, clothes-brushes, tooth-brushes, and nail-brushes are made of it, with such good results that the first consignment was sold off in a few days; indeed, a Bournemouth chemist, who happened to call a day or two before me, cleared out the remaining stock of the hair-brushes. There are also many fine things in manicure-sets shown in the room, at prices ranging from 1s. upwards. I picked out several in leather cases with ivory and ebony fittings which should take well, and there are also plush, silk, and morocco cases, the fittings varying in style, some being hand-painted. Here also one may pick out a wedding gift in dressing-cases and hair-brushes and combs. The "Garniture" toilet-set is something new in manicure, and consists of five instruments with ivory and ebony handles, well finished and mounted on a card; while the "Maniphile" is a six-penny line consisting of nail-trimmer, file, and polisher in a leather case, just like a miniature shaving-strop. "Maniphile," the friend of the hand," Mr. Carter explained. I have scarcely space left to speak of the special lines in perfumes which Messrs. Maw have got up for Christmas trade, and must content myself by saying that they show much variety in these also, and there are "Tantallus" spirit-frames and other handsome presents in cut-glass goods to which reference was made in their advertisement last week. Apart from these things, I may add that they have a new stock of washing gloves in pretty towelling, also a set in white and brown rough towelling (unnaped), and a new shilling loofah bath-strap with soft Turkish towel on one side.

#### IN PERFUME CASES

I saw a good selection at Messrs. John Grossmith & Son's warehouse, Newgate Street. Most of them have been put into stock within the past few weeks, so that they represent the latest things in this department. The cases are made for one, two, and three bottles, and with few exceptions are of Parisian design and execution. I could not find a gaudy one in the series, all colour tones being subdued, and the shapes and figuring highly artistic. There is a tendency to depart from the usual "four square" box. Mr. Grossmith showed me one not unlike a horseshoe in pattern, which contained a bottle of perfume and one of smelling-



salts (the top of the stopper mirrored), immersed in a bed of silk. Heart-shaped boxes are expected to be popular this season—at least they are going well—and so are the shells of last season with the spray of seaweed on the lid; but it is the new shapes, I fancy, which will be most in demand, the taste of the moment being decidedly in favour of departures from straight lines, and Messrs. Grossmith have plenty of such to choose from, the cases being made in silk and leather, as well as leatherette, and the interiors are in all cases finished with good taste and in rich material. This even applies to the half-crown souvenir figured above, and it is a long step from that to the guinea handkerchief-cases containing three magnificent bottles of select perfumes. By the way, the "Victorian" bouquet,



which the firm introduced for Jubilee purposes, has caught on so well that it is now to take rank with ess. bouquet and other standard perfumes—a fact which does not surprise me, for seldom do we get a new perfume so distinct in odour and so permanent on the handkerchief. The bottle illustrated above is the style in which it is put up, enclosed in a triangular box. Besides the things I have mentioned Messrs. Grossmith are showing sachets, silver-mounted toilet-bottles, and their elegant floral perfume-waters in sets of three, enclosed in an elegant case. Their windows are amongst the most inviting in the City just now.

#### THE FANCY GOODS,

which prove so attractive in many districts at this season, are shown in endless variety at Messrs. Silber & Fleming's (Limited), Wood Street. I went there to see Le Grand's new perfumes, a box of which is illustrated, and saw



besides a host of goods in the perfume line. Bath-buns, apple-tarts, and things of that kind, each with a bottle of perfume in them; also pigs, cows, dogs, and so on, which have heads to come off, and some perfumes inside them. These things help to attract in making a display, and they are cheap, most of them retailing at 6d. Miniature beer, champagne, Johannis, and similar bottles are there too, all filled with fragrance. Silber & Fleming's is a place where you can get anything you like from a gold watch to a toothpick, so it is a place to see when you have Christmas presents in view. Coming down to Cannon Street I chanced upon

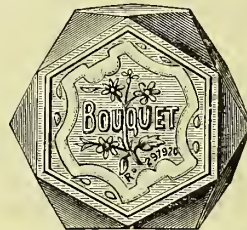
#### THE VINOLIA CITY OFFICE,

15 Aldermanbury, and stepped in there to see what it was like and what was new. It is a handsomely furnished apartment on the ground floor, where samples of all Messrs. Blondeau et Cie.'s goods are shown, where one can place orders, or meet the firm's representatives. No special attempt is made just now to show Christmas goods, but there is little difficulty in picking out several things which should go particularly well then, and, being a man, I could not help thinking that the "Vestal" shaving-soap vase in Burslem-ware,



is one of the few things in the soap line that a lady can buy for a man, and he would think "such a practical girl she is!" The new "Boudoir" soap (shown above) is a line which accords with the longing for "threepence off the shilling": it is

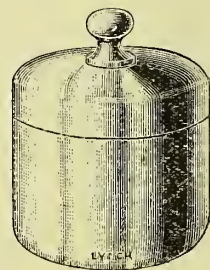
three nice cakes (floral ovals) in a good box to retail at 9d. A more startlingly cheap line is the "Diamond bouquet" vinolia,



seven hexagonal cakes in a hexagonal box, cost 10s. per dozen; it is a prettily-tinted, well-perfumed soap, which will make a Christmas present for many people.

#### SOME SUNDRIES.

Messrs. Lynch & Co. (Limited), Aldersgate Street, E.C., have recently added to their stock several saleable sundries which are worth looking after. I will mention them in the order in which they were shown to me. A nickel puff-box, to retail at 1s. 6d. or thereabouts, is a light and durable article made of solid nickel, polished outside. The illustration below is a faithful likeness. Puff, soap, and tooth-powder boxes, made of moiré celluloid (which is grained like moiré silk), are pretty and cheap. They are made in white, blue, and pink. The firm have a new line of cut-glass smelling-bottles, with ample mouths and silver-mounted necks. Spite of the prices (8s. to 60s. per dozen) there is nothing cheap looking about them, and it should not be difficult to get a half-guinea for the largest size when attractively filled. In spray-producers I noticed a series with single ball, which were sold at one time for 3s. or 4s., but can now be had in two shapes and several colours to retail at 9d. or 1s. One does not know what to charge for these things when "cutters" get 7s. 6d. for a 5s. one. Some lace-pattern sprays, such as the illustration, are pretty and good. These



take the double bellows. Messrs. Lynch are not specialising in Christmas perfumes this year, but I was told that they are offering their stock of Roger & Gallet's goods at reduced prices, and they have a series of souvenir perfumes, each bottle in a box with a Christmas card in the lid. This is a good line. In celluloid articles they have several novelties, such as a celluloid mirror and comb in leather case to retail at 1s., and a hand-mirror in celluloid which costs 21s. a dozen.

#### FAIRY LAMPS.

I called in at the showroom in Aldersgate Street of Clarke's Pyramid and Fairy Lights Company (Limited) the other evening when the lamps were all aglow, and noticed some new patterns for table and counter decoration, which I am sure many other chemists would be glad to see. The showroom is in an alley almost opposite the Manchester Hotel, and is well worth a visit.

#### AT THE SIGN OF THE RED LION.

"Anything new? Rather!" said! Sharp Brothers manager to me when I called at Red Lion Square



"Come into our sample-room." The next moment I found myself handling perfumes ranging in value from the humble 3d. bottle to the 12s. 6d. presentation-case. Between the two extremes there was a wide choice, and it is not easy to select a few for comment. In 6d. articles I observed almost a score of distinctly different designs. Some were two in a box, some three, all tied with ribbon of assorted colours. An eighteenpenny-line attracted my attention. It consists of two stoppered bottles in gilt "decided" or serrated-edged boxes of various tints, and embracing all the familiar odours of French perfumes. A special line, tastefully got up in silk-lined boxes, is the "No. 1,071," with Watteau design on lid, containing two cut-glass bottles bearing gold-blocked labels. Another similar line in silk is the "No. 1,013." A 12s. 6d. presentation-case contains two 5-oz. fine cut-glass bottles in various fanciful shapes filled with choice perfume. From perfumes we drifted to soaps. Something really new in this department is Dr. Corbin's zinc toilet-soap, which is good both in respect to the soap-basis and perfume. It is a superfatted milled soap, and for the complexion, to take the place of the arsenical soaps. It will retail as a sixpenny tablet. With orders for this soap some of our med showcard of a handsome Grecian blonde is given away. The company have also recently introduced a new series of high-class soaps under the names of Frangipanni, Sweet Mimosa, and Violet Russes, in boxes of three large tablets, at 6s. per dozen boxes, bearing gold-blocked labels. The "Violette de Parme" soap, in oval-shaped tablets with floral surface, is another recent introduction. "Creamolia" is the name given to a new toilet-cream, put up in round metal boxes, to retail at 6d. It is a nice winter cream. I had no difficulty during the half-hour I was in the showroom in making up a mental 5l. order. *C. & D.* readers will have noticed that the company offer a dozen boxes of Bentley's O.B.W. soap to those who buy so much soap, perfume, or toilet-articles, and three dozen with 10l. orders, the offer standing until December 15.

#### SOUTHWARK SOAPS.

Being in Southwark I called one morning this week on Messrs. James Sinclair & Son, of that ancient borough, who have been in the soap-trade ever since I was a boy. Mr. Sinclair had just seen three tons of assorted toilet-soaps shipped off to India, where there is a steady demand, and we were talking about that when an assistant appeared with

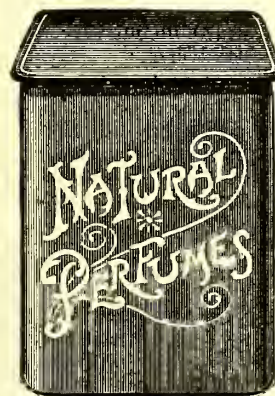


a large tray of samples. "Allow me to introduce you to Miss Alcazar," said Mr. Sinclair, "Miss Alcazar Bouquet Soap to give her her full name." This line is the speciality of the firm, and although it has been before the trade for some time, I may emphasise its good points. Each tablet is wrapped in an outer, bearing the Oriental design in colours which is shown in the engraving. It is put up in boxes of three tablets, and is a high-class soap in regard to material and perfume—the latter is delicious and strong. Next in order amongst the firm's manufactures is Velours or velvet soap, oval in shape, and boxed in a similar manner to the above. The heart-shaped "Forget-me-Not" is another variety of milled toilet-soap, and the "London" is specially notable for its form, the tablet bearing the City arms in relief. In cheap soaps Mr. Sinclair has a large selection. He can do a good 2d. retail milled brown Windsor and other varieties at prices beginning at 16s. per gross. The firm also manufacture

medicated soaps, such as corrosive sublimate, ichthyol, and thymol, and make these as well as toilet-soaps from chemists' and physicians' formulae and prescriptions.

#### CORBYN'S NEW PERFUMES.

Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., to whose excellent perfumes we have previously called attention in these columns, have brought out several novelties for the winter season. These are in many respects improvements upon the goods they have hitherto supplied, for though the perfumes remain as excellent and delicate as they have been since the firm developed this department a few years ago, yet the get-up has been further improved. Several novelties have also been added. One of these is "Corbyn's Square Cut" bottle



which is put up in very handsome bright red cases, silk-lined. This bottle may be had in two sizes, 1½-oz. at 27s. and 3-oz. at 45s. per dozen cases, subject to the usual trade terms. The "Monogram Cases" of scents which have been a feature of the firm from the commencement, and which will bear comparison with any scents on the market for excellence of perfume and elegance of design, have been reduced in price to 22s. per dozen, and at the same time the appearance of the cases has been improved by silk-lining. The last-named fact also applies to the square cut and polished monogram bottles which are now supplied in cases lined with one of the three colours of silk: salmon, pale blue, and heliotrope. One of the prettiest series of perfumes brought out for this season's trade is Corbyn's "Holly Series," with an excellent label, neat but not gaudy, recalling visions of midwinter. This series may be had in bottles of various sizes and shapes: heavy cannons, lubins and edenias. The same series is supplied with a red-and-gold label. The "Bouquet" series is at present limited to "Rose" and "Violet" bouquets, in upright oval cases, but it is intended to bring out further "bouquets" shortly. It would be difficult to find a neater assortment of goods for a Christmas window than a collection of Corbyn's perfumes, and it is not easy to say which of the two features of Corbyn's scents one is inclined to admire most; the delicacy of the odour, so different from the "smelly" scents that are, unfortunately, so largely patronised in this country, or the exquisite taste with which labels and boxes have been selected both in regard to design and colour. Another Christmas novelty of the firm to which we should call attention is the "direct squares," which are supplied singly or in cases of two and three bottles. Messrs. Corbyn report a steadily growing demand for their eau de Cologne and lavender-water. The label of the latter has undergone some alteration also. They also make it a practice to send out orders exceeding 2l. in value carriage free, and to make no charge for packing.

#### THE LATEST.

In wandering round the City I hear many things which are not intended for the trade at large, but this conundrum seems a likely thing for evening parties:—

Why is a pill-maker a philanthropist?

Because he is interested in the condition of the masses.



# "SANITAS" EMBROCATION

in bottles to retail at

8d., 1/-, and 2/6.

## "SANITAS"

AND OTHER

# DISINFECTANTS

SULPHUR FUMIGATING CANDLES (Patent)

6d., 9d., and 1/- each.

PRESERVED PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN (Patent).

MOTH PAPER, BLOCKS AND CRYSTALS.

WEED DESTROYER, &c. &c.

THE SANITAS CO., LIMITED, BETHNAL GREEN, LONDON.

AND 636-642 W. 55 STREET, NEW YORK.

## A NEW SIZE.

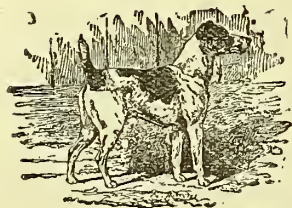
ELLIMAN'S

# 8 1/2

EMBROCATION

7/6, 10 per cent. discount upon gross lots, or assorted in general order.

ELLIMAN, SONS & CO., SLOUGH, ENGLAND.



## SPRATT'S PATENT Dog Cakes

SUPPLIED TO

NANSEN  
EXPEDITION.

## HORA & CO.

47 MINORIES, LONDON,

Special Agents for Finest Brands

# COD LIVER OIL

Sample and Price on application, stating quantity required.

There is a DEMAND for MEDICINAL,  
LICENCE-FREE

## COCA WINE.

The "Galen" Coca Wine gives universal satisfaction as a remedy, brings repeat orders, and yields a good profit.

THE GALEN MANUFACTURING CO., LIM.

(JOHN MOSS & CO.),

Wilson St., LONDON, S.E.

## JEWSBURY & BROWN'S

SODA-WATER,

## Lemonade, Ginger Ale,

BREWED GINGER-BEER,

&c., &c.

Manufactory—ARDWICK GREEN, MANCHESTER.

## ELLIS'S

"Well charged with gas, and in every respect of the very best quality for drinking."—  
PERCY F. FRANKLAND, B.Sc., F.O.S.

## TABLE WATERS

"Typically I reflect."  
—Medical Press.

SOLE ADDRESS—

[1]

R. ELLIS & SON, RUTHIN, NORTH WALES.

London Agents: W. BEST & SONS, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square.

## COCA-TONIC CHAMPAGNE

Prepared and Bottled by the Growers at Bouzy-Reims, from the finest Natural Champagne, and the leaves of the Erythroxylon Coca, and not from Cocaine.

We supply "Coca-Tonic" Champagne with Chemists' own name on the Labels.

For prices and particulars, apply to the Sole Proprietors—

HERTZ & COLLINGWOOD, 38 Leadenhall Street, LONDON, E.C.



"IF THE COUNSEL BE GOOD, NO MATTER WHO  
GAVE IT."

Though it be an advertisement, you cannot gainsay the wisdom of the advice to use

Fletchers' Concentrated Liquors.

## THE BLOOMSBURY BILL.

THE two subjects which are just now attracting the most attention from pharmacists are, in the opinion of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society, "the consolidation of the Pharmaceutical Society and education in its widest sense." *O sancta simplicitas!* Here are some nine thousand five hundred out of our ten thousand chemists and druggists



doing all they know to produce twopence where only a penny turned up previously, and the President serenely ignores all this struggle and the many evidences of it, and sees the whole trade agitated and eager about the modest little Bill which the Pharmaceutical Council are proposing to submit to Parliament next Session.

The Bill, as described by the President, aims simply at one object—namely, to render all chemists and druggists as they become qualified eligible for election as members of the Society. At present Minor men can only become Associates of the Society and cannot be elected to the Council. The idea is that a great number who now hold aloof would be attracted by the membership, and that by thus “consolidating” the Society, as it is called, a much stronger body would be created which could “in two or three years,” the President estimates, go for some greater thing with more chance of success. This policy is being approved with a great expenditure of eloquence by the usual supporters of the Society all over the country, as our reports this week from Glasgow, Sheffield, Nottingham, and Bristol show.

The re-arrangement of the Society's atoms is not a matter of national, nor even of trade, importance. The only persons who it can be conceived might oppose the scheme would be those who, under the specious temptation of acquiring a position and a title which should distinguish them from their competitors, had gone to the extra trouble and expense of securing the higher qualification. Practically the Society proposes to break its contract with these men, and the opposition of a few of them would probably suffice to prevent the Bill passing. If, however, they, as a body, have no objection, but are indeed eager to perform *harikari*, it is hardly likely that much difficulty will be experienced with the Legislature. But from any point of view the proposal is not one for the Pharmaceutical Society to be proud of. To a certain degree it is a confession of failure, and it is still a matter of speculation whether the extra guineas accumulated will be numerous enough to compensate its promoters for what we should think must be to them a somewhat painful undertaking.

For the effect, if carried, will be, we presume, ultimately to submerge the Major examination altogether. Only a comparative few proceed to it now; fewer still will trouble about it when one of the special reasons for passing it is destroyed. The Plymouth chemists have raised the suggestion that by calling Major men “Fellows” of the Society some attraction might remain to the qualification, but they did not venture even to discuss the proposal. To say that the Minor now is severer than the Major was some years ago is not a sufficient reply to those who say that the Society is abandoning the distinctive feature which characterised it. That was, that it was constituted primarily of a select body of pharmacists who had proved themselves to possess even higher qualifications than those which the law demanded.

Mr. Hills foresees a vista of legislative advances for chemists and druggists when this preliminary step shall have had the effect of bringing in a few thousand more members to his Society. He is judiciously reticent as to what these subsequent measures are to be. For our part we have little faith in them. From 1868 onwards this has been the invariable tune of the Pharmaceutical Council. Give us more guineas and then you will see what we will do for the trade. There is no measure that we know of that would have the slightest greater chance of passing if there were five thousand chemists in the Pharmaceutical Society instead of three or four thousand. No number of chemists that could possibly join the Pharmaceutical Society would have any appreciable effect on the Legislature. If there is anything that can reasonably be proposed and advocated, it is absurd not to propose it now.

A Bill of three or four clauses would be as likely to get through as one of a single clause, or, rather, the case should be put conversely, that it is as difficult to get a one-clause Bill through Parliament as a three or four clause one. What are the objects which chemists may reasonably look for? They cannot expect to get the protection which some of them vaguely anticipate, but there are certain claims which they are all agreed upon. Among these are exemption from jury service, the limitation of medical compounding to them and doctors, and the prohibition of company qualification. The last-named claim would, perhaps, raise opposition, and it may also be hoped that it may be dealt with in the Companies Amendment Bill. But we are not convinced of the wisdom, from a trade point of view, of going to Parliament again and again, especially when the first object, which will probably be the only object sought for for many years, is one which is of merely Bloomsbury interest, and cannot be of any sort of value to any individual chemist and druggist.

### SUPPOSITORIES.

THE paper on this subject communicated to the Pharmaceutical Society last week by Messrs. White and Braithwaite recalls a symposium on the same subject which we published in January last year (*C. & D.*, xlviii., page 64), and in which the participators—Messrs. Peter Boa, A. W. Gerrard, Walter Hills, W. Martindale, T. W. Robins on, Charles Symes, and others—generally agreed that B.P. suppositories should be made to fill the 15-gr. mould, which is the trade custom, and that the Pharmacopœia should be brought into line with this custom. At the same time we ascertained from a maker of moulds that their capacity is 15 gr. of cocoa-butter; but that is not likely to be the case, because moulds were made before cocoa-butter was much used as a suppository-basis in this country, and as the late Dr. Henry Bowman Brady was the first to give directions for making gunmetal suppository-moulds he is likely to have ordered them to be of the capacity of 15 gr. or minims of water. This supposition is supported by Messrs. White and Braithwaite's determinations, which are nearer 15 minims of water than 15 gr. of cocoa-butter—in fact, two-thirds of the holes in four new moulds were found to hold less than 14 gr. of cocoa-butter. As far as we have been able to trace, neither Dr. Brady nor Mr. Morrison, of Edinburgh (who devised a gunmetal mould independently and about the same time), mentioned how the moulds are standardised; but it is only thirty-two years since the moulds were introduced, and some living pharmacists may be able to throw light upon the matter. Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Thompson, of London, and Messrs. Kemp & Co., of Edinburgh, were the first makers of gunmetal moulds, the former beginning in 1865 to Dr. Brady's order, and the latter in 1866 to Mr. Morrison's order. As to the inaccuracy of the moulds, it is questionable if the therapeutic gain from a higher degree of accuracy would compensate for the much enhanced expense which the improved mechanical appliances, for ensuring accuracy would involve.

The more important part of the paper dealt with the quality of suppositories, the authors showing that there exists variation in strengths which is more due to manipulation than to incorrect moulds. The variation is due to the suppositories being made by the hot process, which is almost universally employed in this country. The authors very properly suggest the cold process as an improvement. We point out in “The Art of Pharmacy” which is printed in *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY* to be issued next week:—

The manufacture of suppositories by cold compression is steadily making progress, and on the continents of Europe and America this method threatens to supersede the hot process. The objec-



tion to the latter is that solids are frequently very imperfectly distributed in the mass, it often happening that one suppository will contain the active ingredients of several, while the incorporation of extracts (though offering not the slightest difficulty to a competent suppository-maker) is troublesome with a hot basis.

The hot process was a necessity with the wax-and-lard basis recommended by Sir James Y. Simpson, and with the 1857 B.P. compromise of that and cocoa-butter, but it is questionable if heat should ever be employed with cocoa-butter alone. Any who have made large quantities of official suppositories with the 1867 basis (lard, wax, and cocoa-butter) and with cocoa-butter alone will recall the superiority of the former method. The powdered substance was incorporated with the lard, and on adding this to the melted mixture of wax and cocoa-butter, a creamy mixture was obtained which was just the right consistency and temperature for moulding, and one could obtain a gross or two of suppositories with less evidence of deposition of powder than when cocoa-butter alone is used. One cannot manipulate melted cocoa-butter with the same freedom as lard. Besides, heat is objectionable for many medicaments, and the difficulties are accentuated when bougies have to be made. French pharmacists have long advocated cold compression. The little press-mould figured in "The Art of Dispensing," page 107, is of French origin, and is, we believe, the first of the kind devised. When medicinal bougies began to be so much used, about fifteen years ago, German pharmacists quickly abandoned the hot process, and took to making them by mixing the grated butter with the medicament and piping the mass with a pressure pill-piper. This answers very well indeed. The cold process for suppositories as well as bougies, has become so general in Germany that wholesale druggists there are now supplying cocoa-butter as a granulated powder. In the United States the cold process is rapidly taking the place of the hot one. It deserves to be better known in this country than it is, and for that reason we have, in the forthcoming DIARY, given a description of the method and illustrations of the apparatus employed.

### PRESCRIPTIONS.

THE *Daily Mail* has done some service by directing the attention of the public to the careless illegibility which characterises many physicians' prescriptions. A silly story has been going the round of the papers stating, on the authority of an interviewer, that more than one chemist, referring to prescriptions, told him, "We can generally make out the greater portion, but the rest we have to guess." Based on this the *Daily Mail*, realising the personal interest of the subject, has obtained from "a well-known firm of druggists" "some curious and amusing specimens of modern prescribing." The three appended are given in the *Daily Mail*.

The first was stated to be a remedy for neuralgia, but the

*Dr. Henry West*  
*Examiner*  
*Sig. M.*

firm had to tell their customer that they could make nothing of it, and they supplied him with a neuralgia-specific. The second, as will be seen, presents no difficulty: a two-year

apprentice would read it readily. No. 3 is stated to have been the production of an eminent physician. [It looks to us as if it were the same handwriting as No. 1.] And when

*Dr. Henry West*  
*Examiner*  
*Sig. M.*

it was referred to the writer for an explanation he said, "My dear fellow, don't ask me to explain it. I was almost asleep when I wrote it, and it doesn't really mean anything."

*R. R. R.*  
*Examiner*  
*Sig. M.*

If any prescriber actually gave such a reply, he was guilty of a very mean kind of fraud if he took a fee for a meaningless scrawl.

A Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* calls attention to a familiar, but certainly a serious, risk incurred by English patients who have their medicines dispensed abroad. A friend, he says, had a prescription for neuralgia containing so many "gr." of chloral. The French compounder dispensed grammes, and the unfortunate victim had a narrow escape from death after taking a dose. The moral of this story is that Englishmen travelling abroad should make quite sure that the "English pharmacy" to which they take their prescriptions is manned by dispensers who have had their training in this country.

### SYNTHETIC INDIGO.

THE production of artificial indigo, or, rather, of synthetic indigotin, at last appears to be an accomplished fact. At least, a product has recently been placed upon the market by the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, under the name "Indigo pure, B.A.S.F.," which they state is prepared synthetically from coal-tar derivatives. Any doubt which there is as to its source has been raised by Dr. W. F. Koppeschaar, a well-known Dutch chemist, and an authority on indigo and indigo-dyeing. He, in a communication published in Holland, states that he believes it to be a highly-purified natural indigo, and he has been led to this conclusion by certain characteristics. That is, of course, a most important consideration for indigo-planters, who will never raise a voice against "synthetic indigo" as long as it is prepared from the stuff which they make. Dr. Koppeschaar's evidence is briefly, as follows:—Working with "Indigo pure, B.A.S.F." in powder (it is also sent out as a 20-per-cent. paste), he found that it gave 19 per cent. of ash; was not completely soluble in fuming sulphuric acid, the residue being dun coloured like that of natural indigo; it contained 0.24 per cent. of indigo-red, and only 95.6 per cent. of indigotin



(indigo-blue). The very best natural indigos yield about 2·3 per cent. of ash, and some contain only 0·2 per cent. of indigo-red, although the content of that body may go up to 15·2 per cent. To this the Lu lwigshafen company reply that it is a great compliment to them to have it said that their product is so like the natural, and better than the best of it. The ash, they explain, is an inorganic impurity incidental to the manufacture; the indigo-red they admit, but they do not agree with Koppeschaar that the dun colour observed on treatment with sulphuric acid is due to indigo-brown, and maintain that the indigotin-content is 98 to 99 per cent. In reply to this Dr. Koppeschaar reiterates his belief, and it is noticeable that he supports it by examination of three samples of synthetic indigotin made by patented processes, and found them to be free from indigo-red. It does not appear to have occurred to him that if nature makes a little indigo-red along with indigo-blue art may reasonably do the same. However, the Badische Aniline und Soda Fabrik have deliberately denied his general statement in a German circular, and they have the whip-hand in the matter. About one point there is no dispute—namely, that "Indigo pure, B.A.S.F." is better as a dye than the best indigo, that it works well in the vat, and is fast on the fabric. We are indebted to Mr. H. Beck, 22 Bush Lane, E.C., for a sample of the powder. It is exactly like finely-powdered indigo of the best quality, and, as far as we can judge by tests, is pure indigo-blue. The price of the product is as 11 to 8 for the best indigo, so that the latter has a slight advantage; but how long this will prevent the total collapse of indigo-manufacture in India and Java we can only infer from the history of the madder-industry, which, if not dead after about forty years' dying, is not generally reckoned to be a living thing. The planters' hope rests entirely on the supposition that the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik may be customers of theirs, and that seems too paradoxical for belief. It is regrettable, so far as science is concerned, that some particulars of the synthesis of the dye are not forthcoming.

#### THE BY-LAWS SANCTIONED.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* announces that the new by-laws adopted by the Pharmaceutical Society were duly approved by the Privy Council on November 11, and will "come into operation immediately." The only one which can come into operation immediately is that which allows candidates to repeat their attempts at the examinations, after a year from the first attempt, for an additional fee of three guineas. At present the fee in the Miner is 5*l.* 5*s.* originally, 3*l.* 3*s.* for every additional appearance within a year, then 5*l.* 5*s.*, and so on. For the next two years, therefore, the Society will lose on repeats. If they live till September, 1900, however, they will recoup themselves by getting a ten-guinea original fee instead of the present five-guinea one. The new requirements for the first examination, too, will not be enforceable until September, 1900.

The story of these by-laws may as well be once more put on record. The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society by lavish expenditure on their premises, and more recently by wild journalistic speculation, were losing money year by year. Their accumulated funds of fifteen years previously were being rapidly dissipated, and one of their auditors told them that "bankruptcy would stare them in the face in the course of a year or two." For years past they had been maintaining Society extravagance out of the splendid profits which the State allowed them to collect from new chemists in the form of examination-fees. These profits amounted to some 5,000*l.* or 6,000*l.* a year, and were all spent on the Society's private indulgences. Something had to be done. Either the indulgences must be cut down or more revenue

must be provided. The Council, the men responsible for the extravagance, unanimously resolved to double the principal examination-fee, and the Privy Council have sanctioned this piece of official injustice.

#### COCA-WINE.

The *Medical Press* prints this week a particularly absurd paragraph about coca-wine. "We hear," says our contemporary, "that the Excise authorities contemplate taking steps to restrict the sale of the so-called coca-wines, the consumption whereof, under the guise of medicated wine, is enormous, and is daily increasing, thanks to the ingenious and extensive advertising of the manufacturers." What possible restriction can the Excise place upon them more than treating them as wines unmedicated? This they do at present, and they cannot do more. After referring to the use of these wines as a tippie, the *Press* goes on to say:—

The mode of preparation is simple enough. The chemist buys a few gallons of cheap fiery port, at something under 6*s.* a gallon, adds a few tabloids of cocaine, which are said to be sold under cost-price, or an infinitesimal quantity of the liquid extract of coca-leaves, sweetens with a little treacle, and retails this highly-intoxicating beverage at 3*s.* or 4*s.* the bottle.

This is a method of preparation which exists only in the *Medical Press* editorial brain. There is no popular wine of the port class which is not made direct from the leaves, generally in the proportion of 1 oz. to the pint, and although such wine is not regarded by the Excise authorities as medicated, there seems to be no disposition on the part of manufacturers to cut down the coca.

#### HOW DOCTORS ADVERTISE.

We bow to the *Medical Press* when it speaks about the ways of doctors, which it knows intimately, especially about how doctors try to advertise themselves. The favourite way is to write a book, and have the fact notified in the "New Publications" section of the *Times*. Says the *Press*:—

Everyone at all conversant with modern methods of self-advertisement is aware of the artifices resorted to to obtain and maintain a position in this column of the *Times*. The commonest trick is to print editions of, say, fifty copies. In this wise the systematic distribution of gratuitous copies soon exhausts the stock, and the second edition appears for another period of three months. We know of one work, of no great value and small, if any, sale, which arrived at its twentieth edition ere the first thousand had been printed. The *soi-disant* leaders of the profession lead the way, and the young men follow in their wake.

The *Press* gives flavour to this pungency by quoting five advertisements of books, in which ten practitioners, including one baronet and a D.C.L., so sin.

#### DR. PRIESTLEY'S COMPOUND.

What is this preparation? Dr. Wm. Scott, of Kimberley and Eastwood, Notts, writes to the *Lancet* regarding two cases of lead-poisoning which he has treated. One was a woman of 32, the other a girl of 19, both of whom had suffered from indigestion and had obtained from druggists "Dr. Priestley's compound." Subsequently they had lead-poison symptoms, including the characteristic "wrist-drop." No source of lead being traceable, the doctor examined "Dr. Priestley's compound," and found it to contain lead, bismuth, magnesia, soda, and ammonia. He gives no further particulars of the "compound." We should be glad to hear more about it from some subscriber who knows.

#### ARSENIC IN TOBACCO.

Some correspondence in the *Lancet* regarding a death from cigarette-smoking has brought an interesting letter from Messrs. Wm. Woollams & Co., the makers of the well-known non-arsenical wall-papers. A friend who was made ill by some cigarettes gave the firm some to test for arsenic, and they did find that undesirable constituent in them, not in the paper, but in the tobacco. It would be interesting to know how it got there. It is not, as far as we are aware, a



natural constituent, and may have been introduced in the course of manufacture. Glycerine is sometimes used with the object of preventing tobacco becoming bone dry, and we know that arsenic is one of the impurities in crude glycerine. Somerset House chemists know more about tobacco analysis than most chemists. We wonder if they have ever found arsenic in the natural leaf of the finished tobacco.

#### CHLOROFORM FATALITIES.

The practical fact which stands out in terrible distinction is that deaths under chloroform have not lessened in spite of physiology or Hyderabad Commissions. It is useless to contend that these deaths arise because the physiologists teach dangerous tenets, since the large percentage of persons who give chloroform know little of, and probably care less for, physiology. It is rather the careless and over-confident in whose hands such accidents happen, while as a rule it is safer in those of persons who have leisure and training to follow the trend of modern thought and teaching concerning anesthetics.

This extraordinary admission is made by the *British Medical Journal* as a conclusion to an article on "The Relative Efficiency of various Anæsthetics." It has often been alleged that fatalities from chloroform anæsthesia are frequently due to incompetency or carelessness of the anæsthetist, but this is the first time that a medical journal of repute has said as much. In this connection we also call attention to an article in the same journal by Surgeon S. T. Reid, R.N., in which he describes the means taken to save the life of a man who had swallowed 2 oz. of chloroform. Strychnine was principally relied upon as an antidote, twenty-two  $\frac{1}{16}$  gr. tabloids being administered hypodermically—i.e., about  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr.—before any strychnine symptoms appeared. The electrical current was also applied to the respiratory centre. The man recovered.

#### ASSIMILATION IN GREEN PLANTS.

Those who wander into the by-paths of botanical study will be glad to hear of a new method of demonstrating the assimilation in green plants which Mr. Francis Darwin has recently communicated to the Cambridge Philosophical Society, and which is reported in *Nature*. Farmer has shown that the protoplasm ceases to circulate in an Elodea leaf subjected to a stream of hydrogen and kept in the dark; also that if the preparation is illuminated the circulation begins again. The cessation of the circulation depends on the protoplasm being deprived of oxygen, the reappearance of the movement is a consequence of the fresh supply of oxygen yielded by the chloroplasts in light. The experiment can be more simply performed by mounting in water two or three Elodea leaves under a single cover-glass, and sealing the preparation with melted wax and paraffin. The leaves if kept in the dark begin after a few hours to suffer for want of oxygen, and after six or seven hours the protoplasm ceases to circulate. The movement may be restored by exposing the preparations to sunlight or to incandescent-gas flame.

#### ABSURD LAW.

The State of Ohio has become notorious in pharmaceutical America for its pure-drug prosecutions. It appears that an Act was passed between 1880 and 1890 which requires that any article sold under a name recognised by the United States Pharmacopœia shall conform to the standard laid down in that work. A druggist who was charged with selling a drug which did not so conform carried his case to the Supreme Court, which has decided that the legal Pharmacopœia is the one that was in existence at the time the Act was passed—namely, that of 1830. It is expected that similar decisions will follow elsewhere, so it is time that Ohio set about getting a new Adulteration Act, else Ohio pharmacy will become synonymous with stagnation.

DOCTOR: "And you have felt this way for several days?"  
 P.M.: "Let me see your tongue." Patient: "It's no use, Doctor; no tongue can tell how I suffer."

## Reviews and Literary Notes.

*Bibliography of X-ray Literature and Research.* Edited by C. E. S. Phillips. Royal 8vo. Pp. xxxii + 68. London: "The Electrician" Printing and Publishing Company (Limited). 5s.

THE two years' literature on the  $x$ -rays is a more stupendous thing than one would have imagined; and if the work of the future is a tithe of what we have had so far, Röntgenographers will be thankful if Mr. Phillips continues the excellent task which he has set himself in this bibliography. But the book is something more than that. It opens with an exceedingly interesting retrospect beginning with the time (1650) that Otto von Guericke produced the vacuum which paved the way for Abbé Nollet's electric-egg experiments. The achievements from 1740 to 1896 are lightly and graphically touched upon by Mr. Phillips, who then proceeds to give some uncommonly good practical hints on the construction of vacuum-tubes. These are workshop hints, and have no flavour of the armchair about them. Then comes the bibliography—first a list of published books, unfortunately without the names of the publishers, but with brief reviews; then a list of the papers published in American, English, French, German, and Italian journals. These are indexed in English, the principal entry under the subject, with a brief note about the point of the paper; entries are also made under the authors' names. The usefulness of the book is obvious.

*Practical Domestic Hygiene.* By J. Lane Nottter, M.A., M.D., and R. H. Firth, F.R.C.S. 8vo. Pp. 312. London, 1897: Longmans, Green & Co. 2s. 6d.

THIS is a book which we have had on our library-table for some time, and were it not so good it might be passed over without comment, but we feel sure that it is just the book which many chemists would like to have for their own use, and to introduce to familiar customers. The first part of it is devoted to human anatomy and physiology; a popular, yet adequate, account being given of the structure and functions of the human body. The illustrations are excellent. The second part is about domestic hygiene. Here we get all about water, air, food, beverages, soils, &c., that it is important to know, especially because right through the authors bring in lessons deducible from the neglect of what experience and science have proved to be laws necessary for health. The information given in regard to water-supplies, sewage and its disposal, including closets, baths, and so on, is exactly what many intelligent householders want to know. Besides, there are statistics and scientific data which those generally acquainted with science will appreciate. Sick-room and "first-aid" hints conclude the volume, which is a marvel of cheapness, for in paper, printing, and binding it is first class.

*The Analysis of Foods and Milks. Part I.: Milk and Milk-products.* By T. H. Pearmain and C. G. Moor, M.A. 8vo. Pp. viii + 132. London, 1897: Baillière, Tindall & Cox 5s.

THIS is one of five parts which are to constitute a work dealing with the commodities that come under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, as well as the analysis of water and sewage effluents. Milk, cream, condensed-milk, butter, and cheese are dealt with in the first part. The authors do not pretend to be very original in describing the analytical processes, which form a comparatively minor portion of the book, for results obtained by authorities constitute the bulk, and these, we dare say, analysts will be glad to have in a convenient form. The work is apparently intended for public analysts, for many points about the various Acts which they have to assist in administering are included.

MR. G. CLARIDGE DRUCE, M.A., pharmaceutical chemist and ex-Sheriff of Oxford, has lately prepared "An Account of the Herbarium of the University of Oxford," which is sold at 6d. Mr. Druce is the curator of the Fielding Herbarium, and no account of it has been published since 1863, when Professor Daubeney's compilation appeared.



## The Future Pharmacy Bill.

### BRISTOL PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS association met on Wednesday at the University College, Bristol, for the purpose of discussing the amendment of the Pharmacy Act. Mr. B. Allen presided, and others present included Messrs. B. Keen, J. G. Plumley, J. Cooper (Weston-super-Mare), J. Stroud, G. W. Isaac, G. Turner, W. Berry, T. Suxton, &c.

#### A TEMPERATE SPEECH FROM THE CHAIR.

The CHAIRMAN regretted the somewhat meagre attendance considering the importance of the matter. What they had to consider was the proposed legislation that the Pharmaceutical Society was going to introduce next session, and it was desirable the local associations should debate the matter and form resolutions. If those resolutions were carried they would, of course, materially influence the Pharmaceutical Council. He suggested they should try and cultivate a spirit of unanimity, be unanimous in regard to the resolutions that had been passed at other meetings, so far as possible (hear, hear).

Mr. KEEN announced the receipt of letters from several friends who, for a variety of reasons, could not be present—viz., Mr. White, Mr. Pitchford, Mr. Priestman, Mr. Chandler, Mr. Young, of Totterdown, and Mr. Warren, most of whom supported the proposals. Mr. Warren wrote, intimating that after a connection of over twenty years with the association, his retirement from business left him no course but to send in his resignation. He had held office, he wrote, as treasurer for one year and as hon. secretary for five, and he believed that with one exception during his period of office, he never missed a meeting. He was going abroad soon for some time, and on his return to England would not be living in Bristol. He regretted his severance from the association, and would often look with pleasure to their harmonious meetings and their mutual efforts to support the interests of pharmacy. (Applause.) Mr. Keen suggested that they should send a letter to Mr. Warren expressing regret at the necessity for his leaving the association. He had been one of the warmest and heartiest supporters of the institution, and had held office in various capacities; and if it were desired he (Mr. Keen) would write to him as he had suggested. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ISAAC: And congratulate him on his retirement. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the meeting would desire that a letter should be written to Mr. Warren. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. KEEN said he would act upon the instruction of the meeting and write. Turning to

#### THE QUESTION OF LEGISLATION.

He said they would notice the percentage of failures in the Minor examinations had been growing greater every year. They all deplored this exceedingly. Last time, he thought, something like 70 or 75 per cent. failed. Where did the fault lie? Was it in the examination itself or the candidate? The Government visitor of examination from time to time told them the fault was not in the examination; that it was of such a standard that men who were to be entrusted with certain powers ought to possess; and they, having Government sanction to it, must determine that the standard insisted upon by the Board of Examiners was the right one. One was forced to the conclusion that the fault must be in the candidates themselves, and the recent by-laws, which had just come into operation, they hoped would do something to ensure a better preliminary education of all candidates who come up. He thought they wanted to get something more than a good education, which was a very good thing to build upon. They wanted technical education, and that must be attained by some kind of parliamentary action—better technical training. They knew what advantage it was to lads who lived in such places as Bristol to attend evening classes, but if lads attended evening classes there it was purely a voluntary act. What they wanted was such organisation as they had in the medical profession. There the students were obliged to take a certain number of years,

and must attend a certain number of lectures, and that heaped them towards a degree. What the chemists wanted was that lads going to classes there in physics, or chemistry, or botany, should be helped thereby presently towards their qualification.

Mr. TURNER: It would help them.

Mr. KEEN: But we want a legal recognition of it. Of course, he added, they would say it was additional expense. He had no doubt it would be; but the question was whether this would not in the long run be helpful. It would keep out the kind of young men who were, perhaps, no credit to them; and it might be the means of getting into their ranks men who had higher ideals before them, and were less likely to sell themselves to company pharmacy. The first resolution he proposed was—

That it is desirable in the best interests of pharmacy that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain should without delay take the necessary steps to introduce a Bill into Parliament (1) That all pharmaceutical students be registered at least three years before offering themselves for the Qualifying examination; (2) that it be compulsory for all such students to attend an organised course of technical instruction in the interval; (3) that in order to carry out these proposals it is desirable that a conference be held (as has already been suggested); (4) that all students upon registration be eligible for election as associates of the Pharmaceutical Society.

It had been proposed a conference should be held, and the President of the Pharmaceutical Council should preside, and the wise men in the provinces should formulate a kind of scheme. The second resolution which he proposed was—

That all chemists and druggists be eligible as members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and hence as qualified for election as members of Council.

This clause aimed at the consolidation of the Pharmaceutical Society. They all hoped that if some such law as this could be passed they would get a large accession of members to the Society, and that would consolidate it, so that the Council could go to Parliament saying that practically all the chemists and druggists in business wanted certain things. (Hear, hear.) There would be then a better chance of getting them.

Mr. TURNER, invited to propose the first resolution read by Mr. Keen, said it seemed to him they ought to go to Parliament for a larger measure. There was the Poisons Act and the Medicine-stamp Act, for example, to be thought of, and if they were compelled to go through their curriculum, and were supposed to guard the interests of the public, to guard them poisoning themselves, and so on, why should they not have legitimate rights? if they had to pass examinations they ought to have a *quid pro quo* as in the medical or any other profession. (Hear, hear.) He would not care to propose anything so meagre as this resolution. He endorsed it with some reservation, but when they went to Parliament they should certainly deal with the Poisons Act and the Medicine-stamp Act. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN: I think if we begin to look for additional grievances for Parliamentary redress we might go a lot further than you have.

Mr. TURNER: Oh yes, I know. The Company's Act, and so on.

The CHAIRMAN: We must do a little at a time. You are with that resolution so far as it goes?

Mr. TURNER: Oh yes; certainly.

Mr. KEEN: My idea is this Act is intended to be something which will not create opposition, which we have reasonable chance of getting through Parliament; but if you tack to that something there is reasonable opposition against you will get nothing. The House of Commons smells restrictions in everything.

Mr. TURNER: If we go to Parliament for a thing like this can we go to Parliament again for other Acts?

The CHAIRMAN: This is the idea, to get the thin end of the wedge in, to get pharmaceutical chemists on a level footing; and they hope to consolidate the Pharmaceutical Society and increase it and make it more unanimous.

Mr. PLUMLEY: I have no objection to that.

Mr. KEEN: If someone will propose the resolution it will be before the meeting for discussion.

Mr. TURNER: I do so with pleasure.



Mr. PLUMLEY seconded the motion.

Mr. ISAAC expressed himself in agreement with it. It was a small matter, but he agreed with the Chairman that it would be impolitic to tack on other things.

Mr. BERRY cordially supported the motion, and thought it the very thing the Society required.

Mr. PLUMLEY: Do I understand all men after passing the Minor examination will be practically bound to subscribe to the Society?

Mr. KEEN: Not bound. They are eligible for election; that is all.

Mr. PLUMLEY: There are so many who have not subscribed.

Mr. KEEN pointed out that Bristol stood well in this respect compared with other provincial towns.

Mr. COOPER did not see how in the country they were going to carry out the second clause of the resolution, in reference to the compulsory attendance of students at technical instruction lectures, without incurring expense. It would, for instance, be a great expense to send students from Weston-super-Mare to lectures in Bristol.

The CHAIRMAN replied that that was a matter of detail, and would settle itself later on.

Mr. COOPER said that, so far as he could see for the moment, it was placing the country chemist at a disadvantage.

The CHAIRMAN: It is only a disadvantage in common with other disadvantages to be met with in the country.

Mr. COOPER agreed with getting in the class of men referred to, and saw the importance of working through the Pharmaceutical Society, which they could by dint of effort make what they would. He was not against classes.

Mr. KEEN had strong convictions as to the advantageous results that would accrue from compulsory attendance at classes. He mentioned that Mr. Young thought it undesirable that unqualified men should be called associates, lest that should be traded upon.

The CHAIRMAN said they could find a remedy for that.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. ISAAC proposed the second resolution, read by Mr. Keen, and looked to it serving beneficially.

Mr. BERRY seconded the motion.

Mr. COOPER supporting it said there was no doubt they wanted to have the Pharmaceutical Society representing the whole trade generally.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

#### UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS.

Mr. KEEN drew attention to the question of unqualified dispensers, and suggested the following resolution being forwarded to the proper authority: "That in the opinion of this Association the action of the Poor Law authorities in recognising dispensing by unqualified men constitutes a danger to the public and an evasion of the Pharmacy Act."

The CHAIRMAN: I don't think I should touch that.

Mr. ISAAC thought it might be going on tender ground.

The matter was allowed to drop.

#### SANITAS.

It was resolved to write to the Sanitas Company inviting them to place their articles upon the P.A.T.A. list, the selling price to be face value.

At the close of the meeting complimentary reference was made to the valued services of Mr. Keen in furthering the interests of the Pharmaceutical Association; and on the motion of Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Turner and supported by the Chairman, Mr. Keen was by acclamation accorded a vote of thanks.

Mr. KEEN, in his reply, said he had often thought something might be done by amalgamating Bath, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, and Clevedon into a thoroughly representative organisation. (Hear, hear.)

#### GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE first ordinary meeting of the session was held on Tuesday evening, November 23. The President, Mr. W. L. CURRIE, was in the chair, and remarked with satisfaction on the large turnout of members.

#### CONFERENCE REMINISCENCES.

Before entering upon the regular business of the meeting, the President formally handed over to the Library Committee the handsome collection of books on pharmacy presented to the Association by the British Pharmaceutical Conference. Mr. CURRIE further announced that the library was to be still further enriched, as the balance of close upon 10%, forming the surplus of the Local Conference Fund, was being handed over by the local committee for its benefit. Mr. Currie said the thanks of the Association were due particularly to the treasurer of the local committee, Mr. Walker, of the Apothecaries' Hall, for the very satisfactory result he had brought out.

Mr. WALKER, on behalf of Mr. McAdam, chairman of the Local Conference Committee, presented the Association with a framed copy of the enlarged photograph of the members of the Conference taken at Arrochar, and mentioned that another copy was being sent to the London rooms of the Pharmaceutical Society, and a third to the society's Edinburgh rooms. Alluding briefly to the visit of the Conference to Glasgow, Mr. Walker said some folks questioned the usefulness of those Conferences, as they were very much of the nature of social functions. Well, life would be a poor thing, especially to druggists, without the development of the social side of their nature. But it was a great thing also to come in contact with the scientific men who took part in the discussions of the Conference.

#### EARLY CLOSING.

The SECRETARY (Mr. David Watson) read a communication from the Executive of the Early Closing Association in London regarding Sir John Lubbock's Early Closing Bill, and on the motion of the President the Association resolved to again give this Bill its cordial support.

#### THE FEDERATION'S PROGRAMME.

The SECRETARY read a communication from the Federation of Local Associations, embodying the resolutions passed at the last annual meeting of the Federation held during the Conference week in Glasgow, recommending local associations to discuss the following subjects: (1) That all registered chemists and druggists shall be eligible for membership of the Pharmaceutical Society; (2) Is a modified examination for assistantship desirable (in view of the paucity of qualified assistants)? (3) That in the interest of the public it is desirable that some means should be adopted to show who is the legal "seller" in establishments where there is absence of indication.

It was agreed to take up the discussion of these subjects at that meeting, but to delay consideration of a communication from the chemists of Plymouth (forwarded through the Federation) till next meeting.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. CURRIE stated that he had approached the new Professor of Materia Medica in Glasgow University (Dr. Stockmann) with the view of getting him to open the session this year. Professor Stockmann graciously acknowledged the compliment, but, owing to his appointment being so recent, asked to be excused this year, but said if the Association were of a like mind on a future occasion he would be glad to do what he could. Referring to the recent meeting of the Conference in Glasgow, Mr. CURRIE quoted some remarks made by Mr. Daniel Fraser in reference to the Conference held in that city in 1876, and said that they who were privileged to be present would long remember the hearty good-fellowship they enjoyed in the Diamond Jubilee year of our Queen. Seldom had there been such a gathering of notable pharmacists as on that memorable Wednesday night before the 12th August. It included the President of the Conference, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the President of the Natal Board of Pharmacy, Professor Remington of Philadelphia, with a host of others. At the meeting of the Federation of Local Pharmaceutical Associations held in Glasgow during the Conference weeks, and over whose deliberations he had the honour to preside, it was unanimously agreed that if the Federation was to justify its existence a forward policy should be adopted. They were told that a new Bill might be brought forward at



the next meeting of Council, and they were asked to give suggestions as to what might be embodied in it. What had they been doing for the past few years but sending to Bloomsbury Square ideas, suggestions, and resolutions for a new Bill? They would be glad to see the Bill when it came and discuss it in all fairness. One very important clause which the bill ought to contain was one referring to the membership of the Society. Too long had the Society ignored the claims of those whose support would be a valuable acquisition. They knew that as far back as 1868 the intention then was that such should be a condition, but on account of internal dissensions it was lost. Now that the Minor examination demanded so much careful training, and keeping in view that it was the legal qualification, he failed to see why in common justice the privileges of the Society were not conferred upon those possessing that qualification. Of 15,166 individuals on the register, only 4,825 belonged to the Society, and of that number 3,481 were in business. Of pharmaceutical chemists there were 2,253 on the register, and 1,584 of these were members of the Society. This left 12,913 chemists and druggists on the register, of whom only 2,341 were members of the Society.

#### THE FEDERATION'S PROGRAMME DISCUSSED.

Mr. BOYD, the Association's delegate to the annual meeting of the Federation, reported in detail the proceedings. There was a strong and unanimous opinion expressed that all registered chemists and druggists should be eligible for membership of the society; and several expressed the opinion that the president and secretary of every local association throughout the country should be instructed to recommend to their members the necessity of joining the Pharmaceutical Society. It was felt that there must be a large membership of the society if in the future they were to obtain any legislation at all; and something must be done to get outsiders to come in. They must compel them to come in. (Laughter.) The question as to the modified examination for assistantships, which Mr. Kerr, of Dundee, brought up, did not find much favour. Personally, he supported Mr. Kerr, because he thought the question was one which at least should be discussed. There was no doubt that in Scotland and in the North of England there was difficulty in getting registered assistants, especially in country districts. There were many chemists' businesses carried on illegally, as, for instance, where an unqualified assistant sold poisons in the temporary absence of his master. Perhaps there might be a modified examination for young men—say in prescription reading and dispensing—who after passing would be entitled to act under a master, or as assistant under a manager in a store. Mr. Boyd suggested also that in the temporary absence of the master the assistant so qualified might be legally entitled to sell. As to the desirability of adopting some means to show who was the legal seller in establishments where there was absence of indication, the delegates expressed themselves very strongly, and it was a question that required to be dealt with. It was maintained that in the case of a business, whether conducted by an individual or by a company, the name of the actual proprietor should be upon the labels, and it was held that in the case of a company the qualified manager's name should be upon the labels. He maintained that according to the strict reading of section 17 of the Pharmacy Act it was illegal to merely give upon the label the words "Apothecaries' Hall" or "Medical Hall."

Mr. J. ANDERSON RUSSELL said that the Council, instead of waiting for suggestions for a Bill, intended to submit their draft at the next Council meeting. Mr. Russell agreed with the membership being made more democratic, but he opposed the suggested modified examination for assistants. He thought the third point of the Federation scheme was bunkum.

Mr. LAING said they were making a mountain out of a mole-hill over the question of admitting all qualified chemists and druggists to membership of the society. All the members of the Council were favourable to that. He did not believe that they would have much difficulty now in getting the Council to support this for all it was worth. It simply meant that the Council would have to embody the desire of the general body of chemists in the coming Bill, and he had every confidence that that would be done. Mr. Laing disapproved of the proposed modified examination, but he thought it would be advisable in the case of sales of

poisons that the name of the manager, or head of the pharmaceutical department in stores or in charge of a branch, should appear on the label.

Mr. WALKER, of the Apothecaries' Hall, saw a practical difficulty in carrying out this third proposition. There was no doubt that the legal seller was the proprietor of a place, and in the case of accident or for the recovery of damage he was easily got at. Businesses were carried on year after year under old-established names, and these names were the goodwill of the businesses. If they went to Parliament and asked an unreasonable thing they would only be snuffed out. If they would go to Parliament let them go in the right way, and ask it to be declared that no one should own a shop unless he were qualified. Mr. Walker disapproved of the proposal to modify the examination for assistants, and remarked that if the assistant once got permission to sell poisons in the temporary absence of his employers he might go on selling continuously.

Mr. SUTHERLAND, of Messrs. Frazer & Green's, said it was possible to have too much law. At present there was no other business so much hedged round about with the law as the chemist's was, and it was not desirable in his view to further increase it. But if legislation was to be carried out at all it was not desirable that any Bill should be sent down for six or eight months to be discussed by the local associations. Scotland had two or three members on the council, and they might easily insist that those representatives should carry out the wishes of the associations, or at least have them occasionally come before the associations and discuss the subjects. He objected to the term "Minor" examination, which was misleading; it gave the public the idea that this was an inferior examination; they did not know that the Minor examination of to-day was equal to the Major of twenty or thirty years ago. There should be a change made in the name. If small committees of associations were appointed to confer regarding desired reforms, the opinion of the trade could be focussed, as it could not be by scattering broadcast resolutions in favour of this, that and the other thing.

Mr. MACKELLAR thought the proposal of modified examination for assistants could be put down very much as a cry for cheap assistants. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. ROBB remarked that those who thought of this modified examination were making an effort to go back to pre-legislation days—before 1868.

The PRESIDENT, winding up the discussion, stated that he was opposed to the modified examination proposal, but favoured the point as to indicating the seller. He was not one of those who thought that a time-honoured name ought to be kept up after the founder had gone. (Hear, hear.) An individual might get a very old business with a very good name, and might be trading upon the reputation of that name. He maintained that an individual who owned a shop should allow his name to appear as proprietor of that shop.

Ultimately the admission to membership of the Pharmaceutical Society of all qualified chemists and druggists was unanimously approved of, and it was unanimously declared that a modified examination for assistantships was undesirable; while the third point—that means should be adopted to show who is the legal seller in establishments where there is absence of indication—was adjourned.

#### NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association was held at the Albert Hotel, Nottingham, on Wednesday evening for the purpose of considering the

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PHARMACY ACTS.

Mr. F. R. Sergeant (Vice-President) was in the Chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. Beilby, Gascoyne, Bolton, Agar, Brown, Rayson, Davis, Freeman, Spencer, Roberts, Adams, and Eberlin (hon. secretary).

Before proceeding to the consideration of the Plymouth resolutions, Mr. BOLTON moved a resolution in favour of placing pharmaceutical education throughout Great Britain on a uniform basis. It was carried unanimously.

Mr. BEILBY, in opening the discussion, said that when the Pharmaceutical Society put forward suggestions and asked



the associations to consider them he thought they ought to give them careful and serious discussion. The examination which entitled a man to act as chemist and druggist would also, according to the suggestions they had before them, entitle him to be enrolled as a member of the Pharmaceutical Society. No doubt the Major man would still continue to occupy a superior position in the Society, but that was only right having regard to the extra expense and the greater culture they had attained. They all saw that the weakness of the Pharmaceutical Society was that it was an aristocratic or oligarchical institution out of touch with a large number of its members. Consequently, when it was desirous of taking any action in the interests of the trade, it was met by two difficulties—it did not understand what the trade really required, and it had difficulty in impressing its ideas upon Parliament, when Parliament knew that the Society only represented a section of the trade. He thought it was desirable that chemists should be members of the Society, for it was only through that institution that they were going to obtain whatever extended protection or privileges they, as qualified chemists, could command. Two of the resolutions of the Plymouth Association seemed to express the idea that had been put forward by the Pharmaceutical Society itself—viz., that a Minor man should become a member of the Society, and share its privileges. Another idea was that the privilege which the Major man had of being exempt from serving on juries should be extended to the chemist and druggist. That seemed to be only logical, resulting from the proposition which had gone before. He did not see why a Major man should have that privilege, while a Minor had not. The chemist was a useful man, and ought to be content to serve upon a jury so long as it did not occur too frequently. He made no proposition upon that part of the Plymouth resolutions. The suggestion that there should be a period of three years between the registration of a student and his presenting himself for the Minor or Qualifying examination seemed to him to be a very useful one. It would go a long way towards preventing cramming, and would, to a great extent, secure that students should have undergone a distinct period of study in which the various subjects for the Minor examinations should be taught. He should like it to be added that those three years should be passed either in a chemist's business or in a school of pharmacy, so as to ensure that the knowledge would be not merely theoretical, but practical. The Pharmaceutical Society had also asked for suggestions as to what chemists really required. The suggestions which had been thrown out were simply a means to an end. They wished to become members of the Pharmaceutical Society, to make it more democratic and representative of the whole of the pharmaceutical craft, but they wanted to do that mainly because the Society would be stronger to carry out their wishes and intentions. He thought that their Association ought definitely to state some policy upon which the whole of the chemists were united, and that was one which was suggested at a previous meeting, and which was summed up in the words,

#### PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE PHARMACIST.

Mr. BOLTON mentioned that these resolutions were not the suggestions of the Pharmaceutical Society, but of the Plymouth Association.

Mr. BEILBY then proposed the first Plymouth resolution as follows:—

That pharmaceutical students should, on registration as such, be eligible for election as "Associates of the Pharmaceutical Society."

Mr. DAVIS thought it was going a little too far to make an apprentice an associate.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that it would be an easy matter for, say, a herbalist's son to attach A.P.S. to his name, and the public would not know the difference.

Mr. BEILBY withdrew the resolution.

Mr. EBERLIN, however, proposed that the clause be adopted as it stood. He pointed out that there was no such recognised legal title as A.P.S.

Mr. GASCOYNE expressed the opinion that it would be a mistake to allow an apprentice to put the letters A.P.S. after his name. It was open to very grave abuse.

Mr. BOLTON did not agree with this view, and supported

the resolution, [thinking that in so doing they were going the way to give the student some encouragement.

Mr. ADAMS was strongly of opinion that only *bona-fide* apprentices with qualified chemists should be allowed to become Associates.

Mr. RAYSON shared Mr. Beilby's view that it would be best to drop the resolution altogether.

On being voted upon the resolution was lost.

#### C. & D.'S AS PHARMACISTS.

Mr. GASCOYNE introduced the Plymouth resolution which read as follows:—

That registered pharmaceutical students should, on passing the Minor or Qualifying examination, be entitled to assume the title of "Pharmacist" or "Pharmaceutical Chemist," and be eligible for election as members of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. GASCOYNE said that according to the reading of the resolution it would only apply to those who passed in the future. He took it that the Bill was inspired by the Pharmaceutical Society, and he supposed it was meant that all chemists now on the register should have power to call themselves pharmaceutical chemists. But the resolution was not drawn carefully enough if this was the intention. He agreed with the idea, but it should be plain that it was retrospective, and applied to the chemists now on the register. He would therefore move the resolution, with the substitution of the words "having passed" for "on passing." They had been looking for a Bill for a long time, and he found it getting less and less, so that unless they got something through soon he was afraid of it disappearing altogether. In the clause referred to he saw a prospect of uniting the majority of the chemists in this country. He was sorry that the Pharmaceutical Society had not had the courage to formulate a Bill. Why did not the Society put a Bill before them and let them discuss it, and propose amendments? It seemed to him that after waiting something like thirty years of a barren existence they had given up all hope of a future offspring, and were looking out for some stray child to adopt. It was the duty of the Pharmaceutical Society to draft a Bill, and to pursue a policy worthy of a great society.

Mr. DAVIS seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

#### A FEW STEPS FURTHER.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the Plymouth resolution which read—

That registered pharmacists should, on passing the "Major," or "Honours," examination, be eligible for election as "Fellows of the Pharmaceutical Society."

This was carried without discussion.

Mr. RAYSON proposed, and Mr. GASCOYNE seconded, a resolution that chemists be freed from service on juries. This was carried unanimously.

Mr. BOLTON then proposed—

That it is desirable in any new Act the Council should endeavour to make it compulsory that in all branch-shops the qualified chemist's manager's name shall be prominently painted on the premises and printed on the labels.

Mr. SPENCER seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. EBERLIN, a resolution was unanimously passed—

That a schedule of purely medicinal preparations be kept, which shall be sold by registered chemists only.

#### SHEFFIELD PHARMACEUTICAL AND CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

A GENERAL meeting of the chemists of Sheffield was held at Bird's Hotel, Pinstone Street, on Wednesday evening, "to consider the advisability of amending the Pharmacy Act." The President (Mr. George Squire) occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme, Mr. W. Ward, Mr. H. E. Ibbitt, Mr. J. F. Eardley, Mr. H. Autcliffe, Mr. S. Rhodon, Mr. Kirkby, Mr. J. Dale, Mr. J. D. Gambling, Mr. Job Preston, Mr. J. B. Paler (hon. sec.), Mr. J. Austin, Mr. Ellinor, &c. There was a good attendance.



## MR. SQUIRE OPENS.

In opening the discussion the PRESIDENT referred with satisfaction to the news they had received that week that the Privy Council had approved the new by-laws. (Applause.) Proceeding he said that they were gathered together that night to consider the advisability of an amendment of the Pharmacy Act. For some time past it had been the feeling of the Pharmaceutical Council that a favourable opportunity was approaching to draft a Pharmacy Bill and present it to Parliament. The time had now arrived when something ought to be done in this matter. He trusted they would discuss it thoroughly and was sure their opinion would be appreciated and would receive due consideration. The Pharmaceutical Council had not succeeded in obtaining any amendment of the Pharmacy Act since 1868, although from time to time efforts had been made to effect this object. These efforts, however, had been greatly hampered by the apparent lack of interest on the part of the chemists of the country. Now, however, a wave of enthusiasm was passing over the land, and local Associations were taking the matter up with great spirit. This was as it should be, and, properly backed up, the Council would feel justified in approaching Parliament with a strong measure of reform. So long as he was President of their Society he was determined that Sheffield should not be behind other Associations in their allegiance to the parent Society, and would be glad if they could always take the lead in matters pharmaceutical. The Nottingham Association were meeting that night. The Plymouth and District were the first to discuss this matter with several recommendations, and notices were given that Manchester would consider it at their next meeting. A great number of clauses had been suggested by various Associations and members, and some seemed to think that as long as the Council intended to approach Parliament with a Bill it should be a big one—one that would put an end to all their grievances, and make for pharmacy a little Eldorado. This was, he thought, not advisable, and they would all agree with him in saying that it was far better to have a Bill with one or two useful clauses passed than another with, say, six clauses rejected. Should they, during the next session, get a Bill passed which would be for their benefit, and that of the Society, and tend to greatly increase its membership, the Council would have confidence, in a few years' time, in going to Parliament again with other amendments, and by continually pegging away with a body of members at their backs, who were staunch supporters of the Society, there was no doubt but that in due time the gentlemen at St. Stephen's would hear their cry and grant all they could reasonably ask. In his opinion the first clause which should go in the amended Act was one tending towards the consolidation of the Society—that every chemist and druggist be eligible as a member of the Society. This clause, which the Council had good hopes of getting passed, would prove a splendid thing—(applause)—as it would make associates and members equal, and bring more strength to their Society. Apart from being members, each man, on passing his Minor, would be eligible for a seat on the Council. The second clause referred to apprenticeship, and it was suggested that three years should elapse between registration of the student and presentation to the Minor examination. That would be a great advantage for the student, as he would not be so likely to put off his Preliminary from time to time until he got too old, and then go to swell the ranks of unqualified assistants or fill up stores. Those two things, he thought, were sufficient to go for at first, and when they had got them they might go for others. Then there was the question of the curriculum, which he hoped the council of the local Association would take up, and that the suggested conference of local associations on the subject would be held. That conference could consider some scheme by which local elementary pharmaceutical education could be put on a more substantial basis. He also expressed himself in favour of chemists being exempted from serving on juries. It had been further suggested that a student on passing the Minor examination should be called a pharmaceutical chemist, or a pharmacist, but he thought there should be some distinction between Major and Minor men. These questions, together with the proposal as to the alteration of titles, might well be left over. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—

That, in the opinion of the chemists and druggists of Sheffield and district, it is advisable that the existing Pharmacy Act be amended, and that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain be requested to formulate a Bill for presentation to Parliament at the earliest opportunity to amend such Act as follows:—(1) That all persons having passed, or on passing, the Minor examination be eligible as members of the Society. (2) That the present name of "student" be continued, and that a term of three years should elapse between registration as a student and presentation for the Minor examination, and that the term "registration" should mean the date of acceptance by the Pharmaceutical Society of the student's certificate of having passed the first examination, or one taken in lieu thereof.

## OTHERS FOLLOW.

Mr. J. F. EARDLEY formally seconded the motion in order that it might be discussed.

Mr. W. WARD said that personally he would have liked to have swept away the whole of the Pharmacy Act of 1868 and have gone in for a new one. That was hardly possible, but they had had such interpretations put upon it that they hardly knew what to believe and what to disbelieve. He agreed that it was necessary to consolidate the Pharmaceutical Society. If they had aimed at such a result thirty years ago they would not, have found themselves in the dilemma in which they were now placed. There was no doubt that unity was strength, but in the past they had been very much like a rope of sand. They were everlastingly complaining that the Pharmaceutical Society did not do this, that, and the other, and the consequence had been that the great majority of chemists and druggists had held aloof. Again it was very greatly to be deplored that they had no parliamentary representative. If they had a member of Parliament well acquainted with the calling of a chemist and druggist they would be able to overcome many of the difficulties they had met with in the past. He did not think there was the slightest chance of their having a chemist and druggist elected to Parliament. Proceeding, he said he was not prepared to go in for making a candidate after passing his Preliminary examination an associate. The Preliminary had nothing to do with the calling of pharmacy. It was a purely academic or school qualification. He thoroughly agreed with the Minor man being eligible to become a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, and would not only make him eligible but make it compulsory. This would strengthen the Pharmaceutical Society very much indeed. As to the apprenticeship question, and the three years which should elapse after the Preliminary, he thought that three years should embrace a compulsory curriculum. The exemption from jury service they could not secure. (Applause.)

Mr. PORTER, while agreeing with the remarks of the President, said an amended Act should include not only the clauses which he suggested but a great deal more. In his opinion if the Pharmaceutical Society were to get a Bill through Parliament it must be a non-contentious Bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. WARD explained that he had omitted to say that his proposal in connection with the Minor examination was that it should be divided into two parts, the first of which should be a written one held in some provincial centre.

Mr. PRESTON said this was a question more for those who were associates [of the Society]. He thought it an injustice that young men who had passed their Minor, but did not choose to take their Major, should be kept from membership. He suggested that the resolution should be divided.

The suggestion was acted upon, and the PRESIDENT moved, and Mr. EARDLEY seconded, resolution No. 1.

## PAST FAILURES.

Mr. G. T. W. NEWSHOLME said he was glad this course had been taken, as, though he agreed with the first, he could not at the present time agree to the second resolution. For many years the Council of the Society had been promoting an amended Act in Parliament, but had never been successful, chiefly because their Bills had been overweighed. Ten years ago the Council were agreed on the question of opening the doors of the Society, and they were still in favour of it; but so many other things were tacked on to their Bill that they courted opposition and defeat. If they got the Consolidation Bill passed alone, and then went to



Parliament with the whole of those who had passed the Minor examination at their back, they would be able to obtain anything in reason they desired. He asked the meeting to confine their attention solely to the one subject of the consolidation of the Society. The subject of registration appeared to be an innocent one, but it would provoke a certain amount of opposition, and would defeat their object. If they confined themselves to the one point they would get the unanimous support of the whole of the chemists throughout the country. (Applause)

#### COMPULSION ADVOCATED AND DEFEATED.

Mr. WARD moved as an amendment—

That it be compulsory that all persons on passing the Minor examination should become members of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr. IBBITT seconded the amendment.

Mr. ELLISON thought the present Pharmacy Acts were sufficient. The doors had already been opened sufficiently wide, and what they now wanted was for all registered chemists and druggists to become members of the Society.

Mr. NEWSHOLME opposed the amendment, and on being put it was defeated, and the resolution was carried.

The PRESIDENT formally moved, and Mr. EARDLEY seconded, the second resolution, and, after some discussion, it was carried as a recommendation to the Pharmaceutical Society to consider for future legislation.

Thanks to the President concluded the meeting, which was regarded as a very satisfactory one.

### At the Counter.

"CATKURE GUM" is how they ask for it in Wigan.

MR. HARGREAVES, of Gloucester, was asked for "A 43 man's racked dwarf—3*l.* one." He got out of the difficulty by supplying a black draught.

"PLEASE I want 2*l.* of that stuff that looks like a candle that you put on your face to stop the toothache with."—A. D. Purse, Bishopwearmouth.

"THE GENTLE ART OF SUBSTITUTION."—Lady at the Grocer's: "Have you Winslow's Syrup?"

Grocer: "No, mem, we always recommend Seigel's; it's better." This occurred in Cheltenham.

THE following written orders are from a collection sent by Mr. C. R. Toyne, of Putney:—"Sucker for a baby feeding," "Lemon of Elecrit," "Mono for washing one 1*l.*," "Tinc Electricity," "2*l.* Colding Powder," "1*l.* Subscription Powder."

LITTLE BOY: "I'd like something for toothache."

Druggist's Assistant: "Is it a hollow tooth?"

Little Boy: "You bet it's a holler tooth. My brother what's got it hollers worse than daddy does when he is shaving."

"PENETH auddiglogne," "peneth ointment for the blood," "please how do you sell catarrh?" "peneth Liver and Bacon pills," "powder for the hahy, please, she's just fallen down stairs," "pennyworth Royal Steel Pills."—H. J. Alford, Upton Park, E.

MR. J. LAWSON JOHNSTONE, of the Bovril Co., has bought Mrs. Langtry's yacht for 11,200*l.* He lately bought the Prince of Wales's yacht.

DEATH AT A CHEMIST'S.—Last week a lad named Edwards, aged 13, who was at the Grammar School, Wishech, with the son of Mr. J. T. Maxey, chemist, went home with the latter after school. They "trotted" home, was young Maxey's expression, and when they reached there Edwards said "I am out of wind, Charlie." They went upstairs, and Edwards fell at the top of the stairs and never spoke again. The doctor said his death was due to syncope. At the inquest sympathy was expressed with the family of the deceased, and also with Mr. and Mrs. Maxey.

## Trade Reports.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., November 25.

BUSINESS in Mincing Lane has been much interrupted this week by heavy fogs, which necessitated the postponement of the spice-auctions from Wednesday to Thursday, and almost prevented the drug-auctions from being held to-day. In fact, the goods on show were but very imperfectly inspected, and in consequence there was very little activity at to-day's sales. It was decided that the auctions of December 9 should be the last drug-sales of the year. Most of the goods offered were bought in, and changes are very slight. Calumba remains firm. Menthol steady. Ergot of rye quiet, but firmly held. Buchu leaves easier. Brazilian ipecacuanha sold below the high rates that were paid privately last week. Fine Sumatra benzoin is scarce; medium sold at 5*s.* advance; common grades quiet. Cardamoms steady. Gamboge and ordinary dragon's-blood sold at low rates. Rhubarb plentiful and quite neglected. Balsam Peru firmer, tolu quiet, copaiba sold well. A parcel of Chinese cantharides was bought in. Colocynth very dull. Saffron tending easier. Tragacanth has been in demand. Opium is firmer. Senna easier for common Tinnevely. Crude camphor firmer. South American red bark sold at extreme prices. Sarsaparilla shows no alteration. Menthol firm. Japanese peppermint oil rather firmer. In chemicals quinine is steady. Cocaine still tending firmer. Citric and tartaric acids quiet. Chlorate of potash weaker. Prussiate of potash firmer. Cream of tartar unaltered. There are few alterations to report in heavy chemicals. Sulphate of copper is weaker. Recovered sulphur scarce and in demand. Arsenic in better supply and slightly easier. Sulphate of ammonia firmly held. In oils, spices, drysalteries, &c., we have to chronicle the following alterations:—Turmeric remains very firm. Gambier is quiet. Shellac easier. Black Singapore pepper is firmer privately. Pimento steady. Cochon and Jamaica gingers also steady. Nutmegs, mace and cloves quiet. In the oil market linseed is firm. Palm oil is higher. Cocoanut, olive, and rape oils unchanged. Petroleum flat. Turpentine steady. American is quoted on the spot at 23*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

We are informed that the result of the litigation in Germany between the firms of Fahlberg, List & Co. and von Heyden & Co. (referred to on page 101 of our last issue) is calculated to strengthen to position of the Saccharin Company (Limited), in this country, inasmuch as the Saccharin Corporation long ago acquired, and still possess, the British rights in the patents by the aid of which von Heyden & Co were successful in their action. In our advertisement-pages of this week will be found an announcement from the solicitors to the Saccharin Corporation (Limited), giving notice of the commencement by the company of actions against certain persons alleged to have infringed the company's patents.

From official information supplied by the Colonial Office we learn that the vanilla-crop of 1896 in the Seychelles was the largest ever produced in those islands, viz., 63,000 lbs. As the prices ruled higher than for many years past, the planters have done so well by this crop that they have very greatly extended their plantations. Moreover, the country is now being opened up by new roads, and many thousands of acres of virgin soil suited to vanilla growing, but now uncultivated, will shortly be made available. In the district of the Mare aux Cochons alone there are about 5,000 acres of this kind. The cultivation of vanilla in the Seychelles dates back about 20 years, but it is only now beginning to be understood. Formerly the vines

Seychelles  
Vanilla.



were trained on artificial supports, but the Mexican system of allowing the vines to grow wild has of late years almost superseded the old plan. It is said that nothing pays better than vanilla-growing. The average cost of production, including drying and getting ready for the local market in the Seychelles, is only Rs. 3 per lb., whereas the local sale-price in 1896 averaged from 8 to 16 Rs. per lb. And as the average yield of dried beans per acre is 200 lbs., it follows that there are few crops (certainly not sugar, the staple product of the Seychelles) which give the grower a better return. Most of the land in Seychelles is in the hands of private owners, but may be bought at from Rs 100 to Rs. 200 the acre for ready money. There is also some land belonging to the Government well adapted for vanilla cultivation, which can be leased for periods varying from 9 to 21 years. In 1882 the yield of vanilla in the Seychelles was only 2,400 lbs.

Our New York correspondent telegraphs on Thursday afternoon that there have been numerous advances in the New York drug-market. *Quinine* is quoted at from 28c. Cablegram. to 30c. per oz. for 100-oz. tins. *American bleached beeswax* offers at from 28c. to 28½c. per lb. *Golden-seal root* may be had at 50c. per lb.; *Slipper-root* at 31c.; *Mandrake*, 6½c., and *Blood-root* at 8d. per lb. All the above are in a firm position.

Our Smyrna correspondent telegraphs on Wednesday afternoon that the opium market is excited *Smyrna Opium Telegram.* owing to renewed frosts. Speculators have appeared on the market, the prices paid being 7s. 7d. per lb. for *Current*, and 7s. 9d. per lb., f.o.b. Smyrna for *Selected*.

**ACID (TARTARIC).**—Two casks of *Powder* were offered at auction to-day, and sold at 1s. per lb., which is a fairly good price. In the open market foreign brands can be had at 12½d. per lb., English (B.P.) at 1s. 1½d. per lb. Of 28 packages *Cape argol*, 4 sold to-day at 35s. per cwt. for dusty red colour, and 20s. per cwt. for very ordinary dusty.

**ACONITE.**—Ten bags of small Japanese *Aconite-root* were offered at auction to-day, of which five sold at 27s. 6d. per cwt.

**ALOES.**—The *Cape* variety was represented at auction by a fairly good parcel of 28 cases, which was all bought in at 17s. 6d. to 20s. per cwt. There is very little demand. Of *Curaçao* aloes 559 gourds were offered. They were mostly of small size, but showed good bright brown quality of fair aroma. There were no bids for any of the lots, however, and the whole parcel was bought in at from 25s. to 30s. per cwt. *Socotrine aloes* was represented by 30 kegs, dry, of good colour and aroma, which were bought in at 85s. per cwt., and by 39 cases good quality, but mostly rather soft, which were bought in at 82s. 6d. per cwt.

**ALUM.**—The quotations given by us last week refer to prices in Manchester. The quotations in London are from 2s. 6d. to 5s. above the figures which we mentioned. There has been no change in the price of the article for some considerable time.

**AMBERGRIS.**—The only lot shown at auction was one of three packages (together about 27 oz.), which were all bought in at 65s. per oz. for medium quality.

**AMMONIA SALTS.**—The advance in *Sal ammoniac*, to which we referred last week, has up to the present been declared by one manufacturer only; the older makers have as yet made no change, though it is quite probable that they may follow suit.

**ANISE.**—Forty-three bags of damaged anise from Marseilles sold cheaply without reserve to-day at 12s. 6d. to 12s. 9d. per cwt.

**ANNATTO SEED.**—Two bags of fair bright seed sold at 3d. per lb. at auction.

**ASAFETIDA.**—The stock is increasing, and we hear of no business. Prices are therefore more or less nominal.

**BAEL-FRUIT.**—Three casks of ordinary wormy pulp were sold at auction to-day, "without reserve", at ¾d. per lb.

**BALSAM COPAIBA.**—Steady for good qualities. One cask good thick *Maranhão* balsam was bought in at 2s. 3d. per lb., and 5 cases thin pale yellow *Para* balsam at 2s. 1d. per lb. A new parcel consisting of 43 cases *Cartagena* balsam sold at fairly steady prices at auction to-day, thin, cloudy, and yellow realising 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.; duller and thicker, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. per lb. For another lot of 10 cases bright orange balsam no bid could be obtained, although the broker declared that he had had the parcel analysed with satisfactory results.

**BALSAM PERU.**—A firmer market. Privately 8s. 6d. per lb. is said to have been paid for good genuine quality. At auction 2 cases were bought in without mention of price.

**BALSAM TOLU.**—Four cases of good hard *tolu* were offered for sale to-day and bought in. Twenty-two cases good genuine but rather soft balsam were bought in at 2s. 6d. per lb.

**BENZOIN.**—Fine quality of *Sumatra* gum is very much wanted, and would bring high prices. Nothing really good was offered at auction, but medium quality sold at an advance of 5s., while for good ordinary an advance was also paid. Very little was sold to-day. Nice bright almondy pale centres, false-packed borders, realised 6d.; slightly more false-packed 95s. per cwt. Bright almondy seconds, of pale centres, false-packed borders, are held for 5d. 15s. per cwt.; ditto, more false-packed sides and ends, were bought in at 95s. Of *Siam* gum 11 packages were offered, but only four sold at 35s. for common grain and small grey siftings in block, which was very cheap. One case small to medium bold pale, partly loose, slightly blocky almonds was bought in without mention of price. *Palembang*, 75 packages were offered, 25 of which were sold at from 19s. to 20s. 6d. per cwt. for very ordinary, with little gum. For dull grey block 22s. 6d. to 25s. per cwt. is asked. *Penang*, nothing was sold at auction. Fair almondy gum, glassy centres and false-packed sides, is held for 65s. per cwt.

**BUCHU.**—Although buchu-leaves are very firmly held there is really at present but little demand for them, and prices are distinctly easier. At auction 8 bales good round green leaves were bought in at 6d. per lb. Of another parcel of 10 bales, 6 sold, at from 3½d. per lb. for ordinary yellow up to 5½d. per lb. for good greenish round. Two bales good greenish long, narrow leaves from the Cape sold at 6d. per lb., which is cheap.

**CALUMBA.**—The demand for this root still remains strong. At auction a parcel of 23 bags nice yellow washed and picked root, were bought in at 70s. per cwt., a bid of 67s. 6d. per cwt. being refused. One bag of dull greyish root realised 30s. per cwt. Another lot of 15 bales was bought in, small to bold fair yellow mixed, at 50s. per cwt.

**CAMPHOR (CRUDE).**—Extremely firm. A moderate business has been done in *Japan* camphor for December-January shipment, at 105s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms. *Formosa* was offering a few days at 89s. per cwt., c.i.f. terms, December-January; but these offers have since been withdrawn.

**CANNABIS INDICA.**—The only parcel offered was one of 35 Robbins fair greenish partly stalky tops, of which 15 sold at 4d. per lb.

**CANTHARIDES.**—At auction to-day a parcel of 15 cases, new import, consisting of small to fair *Chinese* slices, was limited at 1s. 3d. per lb. This is the first parcel that has been seen on the market for a good many weeks.

**CARAWAY SEED.**—Twenty bags of *Russian* were sold to-day at 16s. 6d. per cwt.

**CARDAMOMS** were in small supply at auction to-day, only 38 packages being offered, about half of which sold. One case of *Ceylon-Mysore*, medium to bold long pale brought 3s. 9d., the remainder of the parcel being held for 4s. per lb.; small, brownish and dull sold at 3s. 3d., and small pale yellowish at 3s. 2d. per lb. *Ceylon-Malabar*, 5 cases, round brown, lean and small, are limited at 3s. 4d. per lb. A case of "*Camphor seeds*" from Bombay, very damp was offered and withdrawn. This article, it may be remembered, appeared at auction a couple of years ago.



**CASCARILLA.**—We understand that there has been a very strong demand for this drug privately within the past few days. One or two operators have bought up all they could lay hands on, at up to 35s. per cwt. for medium lean brownish bark. At auction only two lots of fair siftings were shown, one of 25 barrels was bought in at 25s. per cwt. For the other parcel, consisting of 12 barrels dull siftings, a bid of 20s. was rejected, 22s. being suggested as a more likely figure.

**CHIRATA.**—Five bales fair bundles from Calcutta, somewhat damaged, were bought in at 2½d. per lb.

**CINCHONA.**—Twenty-three bags small *Maracaibo* bark (damaged) of fair colour are limited at 5d. per lb., a bid of 4½d. per lb. being rejected for it. A parcel of 60 bags flat S. American *Calisaya* was declared for sale, but it had not arrived in time for samples to be inspected by the whole of the trade, and it was also bought in at nominal prices. At to-day's auctions a parcel of 20 cases of *South American* red bark from Guayaquil, rather dull in colour, sold at extreme prices with good competition, partly split quills realising from 5s. 9d. to 7s. 3d. per lb.; medium to bold pieces, 4s. 3d. to 5s. 3d.; common colourless chips and small pieces from 1s. to 4d. per lb. Twenty bales of fair *Cartagena* were bought in at 8d. per lb.; 30 bags fair *Lima* at 4d. per lb. A new arrival of 68 packages good genuine flat *Calisaya*, M.C. brand, was shown and bought in on the basis of 1s. 4d. per lb. for sound, except a very common lot which sold at 4½d. per lb. There was also a new parcel of 177 packages of new *Crown* and *Grey* bark, of which 61 sold; fair sound thin brown quill at 6½d. to 7d.; ordinary dull ditto at 4½d. to 5d. per lb. The cinchona-bark exports from Ceylon in the period between January 1 and November 2, 1897, have been 611,926 lbs., compared with 1,231,359 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1896.

**COCAINE.**—Still inclined to move upwards. The general quotation for *Hydrochlorate* is now 10s. 6d. per oz.

**COLOCYNTH.**—Neglected, and low in price. Four cases good pale, partly seedy, *Syrian* apple were bought in at 1s. 2d. per lb. Thirteen cases good pale *Spanish* pulp from Malaga were bought in at 3s. per lb. nominally. The price of this variety is declining.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—At auction two casks of good French crystals were offered and sold at 73s. per cwt. This is a pretty good price, for in the private market the quotation is 74s. per cwt. for crystals, and 76s. to 78s. per cwt. for powder.

**CROTON SEED** remains neglected. For auction three bags dull, partly park mixed seeds, were catalogued, but they were reported to have been sold privately.

**CUBEBS.**—Twenty bags of good bright quality without stalk offered at auction to-day are limited at 30s. per cwt.

**CUTTLE-FISH** shows no alteration. At auction 55 mats from Bombay, fair small to bold pale, were offered and bought in at 3½d. to 4d. per lb. Another parcel of 7 cases of fair quality, partly broken, was bought in.

**DRAGON'S-BLOOD.**—Fine quality is very scarce—almost unobtainable, in fact; but ordinary grades are fairly plentiful. At auction scarcely anything was sold. Bold seedy cake, rather dark in colour, is held for 5l. 15s. per cwt., but that figure could not be obtained at auction. Soft ditto, partly fair fracture, was bought in at 7l. per cwt. Two cases common dull flat bricks of poor colour sold cheaply without reserve at 77s. 6d. per cwt.

**ELEMI.**—For fine white Manila Elemi there is no demand. The nominal quotations are from 19s. to 22s. per cwt. according to quality. At auction the 8 cases of very dark common gum (1882 import) which have been repeatedly offered were again shown. On this occasion they were again bought in at 25s. per cwt. nominally.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—There is but little business doing in the article at present, but everywhere holders are firm. "New" Spanish ergot offers privately at 1s. 2d. per lb. f.o.b. Russia has very little to sell, it seems, and for fair quality from this quarter the current quotation is 8½d. to 9d. per lb. f.o.b. Hamburg. At auction 3 bags dark dull wormy *Russian* ergot as bought in at 1s. per lb. Another lot of 4 bags small sound ditto was bought in at 10d. per lb. Eighteen

bags of fair small Russian from Libau were bought in at 1s. per lb.

**GALANGAL ROOT.**—Eighteen bales of good bright root were bought in at 25s. per cwt.

**GALLS.**—*Persian* galls are quite neglected for the moment, but there is not much offering. Blues are held at from 55s. to 57s. 6d., greens at 45s. to 50s., and white galls at 42s. 6d. to 45s. per cwt.

**GAMBOGE.**—A rather large supply was offered to-day, but only 7 cases sold. Good bright, partly caked pipe of fair fracture was bought in at 8l. 10s. per cwt.; bold, partly blocky, damp pipe, partly of fair, partly of ricey fracture at 8l. 5s. per cwt. Seven cases of fair, partly blocky pieces, partly good red fracture sold cheaply at 8l. to 8l. 2s. 6d. per cwt.

**GLYCERINE.**—Nine cases of *Lever's* brands g. 1 260 sold very cheaply without reserve at 40s. per cwt., subject to buyer's approval of quality.

**GUAIACUM.**—Fairly steady for fine quality. A few packages of fine gum realised 1s. 8d. per lb. at auction to-day; one cask good bright sold at 1s. 7d.; dullish at 9½d., drossy 7½d., and dull woody and drossy mixed brought 3d. per lb.

**GUM AMMONIACUM.**—Three cases bold, part pale almondy, slightly blocky to fair, were bought in without mention of price.

**"GUM OPOPONAX."**—The scented bdellium gum which periodically puts in an appearance under this name was again in evidence at to-day's auctions. Five bales from Aden (dull blackish hard and earthy) were withdrawn. Another case, rather duller quality, was bought in without mention of price.

**GUM TRAGACANTH** has been in somewhat better demand lately, and several parcels of *Persian* gum, especially lots of good quality, have changed hands; best white firsts are held for 13l. to 13l. 10s.; seconds at 11l. 5s. to 12l. 10s. per cwt.

**HONEY.**—*Jamaican* honey was but sparingly represented at to-day's auctions and the quality of the lots offered fell rather below the average. Of 39 packages offered only 2 sold. Brown candied is held 23s. per cwt. Dark dull liquid realised 23s. 6d. per cwt.

**IPECACUANHA.**—It is said that there has been a good demand privately for this article, and that prices of both varieties have again advanced, 7s. per lb. being reported asked for fair partly thin *Brazilian*, while as much as 6s. per lb. has been asked privately for *Colombian*. At auction 40 bales *Brazilian* (*Rio*) root, nearly all sea-damaged, were offered, but the bulk was bought in. About 3 bales sold at a decline of about 3d. per lb. compared with the private rates, fair sound annulated root realising 6s. 9d. per lb.; damaged ditto, 6s. 6d. per lb. Of *Cartagena* root 9 bags were shown. Five of these, fair but slightly damaged, realised 5s. 5d. to 5s. 6d. per lb.

**JABORANDI-LEAVES.**—A parcel of 55 bales low small dark dull stalky "jaborandi-leaves," *via* Havre, was offered to-day "without reserve," but only 20 bales could be sold. These realised ½d. per lb.; the rest was withdrawn.

**JALAP.**—Two parcels were offered. The first, consisting of 8 bags small to medium fair Vera Cruz, was bought in at 8d. per lb.

**KAMALA.**—A newly imported parcel of 11 cases of ordinary unsifted quality from Bombay was offered. It was bought in at 5d. per lb. Good bright sifted kamala was bought in at 1s. per lb. The market is dull.

**KINO.**—Fine black astringent *Cochin* kino remains scarce. Three tins of this description (together only 28 lbs.) were offered to-day and bought in at 16s. per lb. Red *Zambesi* kino continues to be extremely difficult of sale, even at low prices. At auction 5 packages (about 650 lbs. all told) were all bought in at from 5s. to 6s. per lb. A case of Australian kino, fair bold dark, slightly blocky, was bought in at 10s. 6d. per lb., which is a fanciful price.

**KOLA-NUTS** remain in fair demand. Of *West Indian*, only a small quantity was shown. Six packages of this variety, of fair appearance, are held for 6d. per lb.; a bid of 5½d. per lb. was refused. Various lots of African kolas



were bought in at rather nominal rates. For good washed 8d. per lb. is asked.

**MANNA.**—Is rather easier again. Sales of flake in original packages have been made this week at 1s. 10½d. per lb., f.o.b. terms.

**MENTHOL.**—A firm market. Single-case lots have been sold on the spot at 7s. 6d. per lb. At auction one case of good quality was shown, but it only realised 7s. 2d. per lb., which would show an easier market were it not that one case hardly gives a criterion of the position.

**MUSK** was sparingly represented at auction, but the supply included some *Tonquin* pod musk of fine quality. Four tins of small to medium bold fine blue skins are limited at 80s. per oz.; ditto, part damp 50s.; old-fashioned, dry, dull skinny and untrimmed pods 50s.; and for low old-fashioned untrimmed damp, thick, top and under skins 25s. per oz. is asked. One bottle ordinary empty *Nepaul Musk trimmings* (about 16 oz.) sold at 1d. per oz.

**MYRRH.**—The supply of myrrh at auction was rather larger than usual, and of unusually good average quality, good pale picked Aden gum being well represented, as also siftings and grain for grinding purposes. Of about 100 packages practically nothing was sold. Good pale Aden picked was bought in at 6l. per cwt.; fair ditto at 80s. per cwt. Good clean siftings are held for 5s. per cwt.; dustier ditto at 25s. to 30s. per cwt.

**NAPHTHA (WOOD).**—The quotation for present delivery is 3s. 6d. per gallon, and 3s. 3d. for delivery next year.

**NUX VOMICA.**—Thirty-one bags of medium to bold, part dark silky and part pale, are held for 10s. per cwt.

**OIL (CASTOR).**—Fifty cases yellow Calcutta seconds were offered and bought in at 4d. per lb. Privately the market is quiet.

**OIL (COD-LIVER).**—At auction 10 casks good Norwegian (Aalesund "MD") oil were again offered "without reserve." At the last sales a parcel of the same brand realised 45s. per barrel; to-day's parcel was, however, withdrawn, along with another lot of 10 barrels "L over C" brand Aalesund oil.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—There are scarcely any points of interest in the essential-oil market this week. Chinese and Italian oils are practically unaltered. *Cassia* oil quiet and unchanged. Three cases of 69-per-cent. oil were bought in at 6s. per lb., and seven cases of 72-per-cent. oil at the same price. Privately the market shows no alteration. Two cases "Cinnamon bark oil" from Colombo are held for 8d. per oz. Seven cases, labelled "pure" *Citronella* oil, were offered. The broker added the statement that the parcel was "guaranteed genuine." It fetched 1½d. per oz. Three drums of 710 lbs. each were bought in at 1s. 6d. per lb. nominally. *Lemongrass*: Five cases oil per "land carriage" sold at 2d. per oz. to-day. Five cases of good W.I. distilled *Oil of limes* sold at 3s. 3d. per lb., showing a fresh decline in value. Four cases of *Bay oil* were bought in to-day, D.T. brand, at 9s. 6d.; D. & O. brand, at 10s. 6d. per lb. For 3 cases *Nutmeg oil* of fine quality 2½d. per oz. is the limit. *Peppermint oil*: American oil is very difficult to sell, even at low prices. HGH may be had at 5s. 6d. per lb., landed terms. At auction 10 cases of this brand were bought in at 5s. 9d. per lb. There has been rather more demand for *Japanese peppermint* oil, and prices are firmer. Forty-per-cent. oil is said to have changed hands on the spot at from 4s. 9d. to 5s. per lb. according to quantity: dementholised at 3s. 3d. per lb. At auction 1 case of the former sold readily at 4s. 9d., and one of the latter at 3s. 1d. per lb., the latter price being a rather low one. Another parcel of 10 cases 40-per-cent. oil sold at 5s. 3d. per lb. *Eucalyptus oil* was much less plentifully represented at to-day's auctions than at those of 11th inst. The demand remains slack, although the principal consuming season has now arrived. Sixteen cases of fair oil from Adelaide were bought in at 1s. per lb. Eight cases of fair quality "per land carriage" sold at the low figure of 10d. per lb. Three cases Australian *Globulus* oil were bought in at 2s. per lb. and three cases of Australian *E. odorata* at the same price. A case of Portuguese *Globulus* oil was bought in. *Sandalwood oil*.—Three pots dull darkish East Indian oil from Bombay were shown. The limit for them is 3½d. per lb. *Ylang-Ylang*.—Two cases of fair quality, via Hamburg, were shown and bought in at 3s. 6d. per oz.

**OPIMUM.**—*Persian* gum continues to be in good demand, fine quality having repeatedly realised 10s. to 10s. 3d. per lb. For fair to good gum the price is from 9s. 6d. to 9s. 9d. per lb. *Turkish* opium is also in active demand, especially druggists' and manufacturing grades, and prices are slightly higher. In soft-shipping opium an active trade has also been done at steady rates. The current quotations are: Good to fine Smyrna grades, 8s. 6d. to 9s.; druggists' seconds, 7s. 9d. to 8s. 3d.; good to fine soft-shipping, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; second quality ditto, 8s. 6d. to 10s. per lb.

**ORANGE-PEEL.**—Plentiful, and slow of sale at auction, although it is said that there is a steady demand privately. At sale 11 packages fair *Malta* and *Tripoli* strips were mostly bought in at from 4d. to 8d. per lb., according to quality. A parcel of 8 bales rather dull ringlets and quarters from *Zanzibar* was offered "without reserve," but could not find a buyer, not even ½d. per lb. being bid for it.

**ORRIS.**—The *Orianda* has brought 84 bags of orris-root this week. We are informed that the greater part of this shipment is intended for manufacturing purposes, and will not come into the market. At auction there were only a few lots of *Florentine* orris-root of good pale quality, and these were bought in at a nominal figure. *Mogadore* orris was fairly well represented. A parcel of 14 bags nice pale bright root was bought in at 32s. per cwt. Another lot of 3 bales was sold, fair pale at 20s. per cwt., partly dull and dark at 16s. per cwt.

**PATCHOULI-LEAVES.**—Two bales of small dusty leaves were sold at auction to-day at 5d. per lb.

**POTASH.**—Yellow prussiate of potash is firmer. The Beekton factory is not quoting; other makers require from 6½d. to 6¾d. per lb. *Cyanide* is also dearer: 98 per cent., 1s. 3½d. per lb. for spot, and 1s. per lb. for next year's delivery.

**QUINCE SEED.**—Three bags of *Cape* quince seeds were catalogued. Two of these were reported sold privately before the auctions, the other, representing ordinary grey quality, was offered "without reserve" and sold at 11d. per lb.

**QUININE.**—Quiet, but steady. Some business in second-hand German brands has been done at 1s. 2¼d. per oz. this week.

**RHUBARB.**—The large supply of 246 packages was offered at auction, but only one or two unimportant lots sold, without change in price.

**SAFFRON.**—The quotations for finest *Valencia* saffron remain practically the same as last week, but there is still a tendency towards lower rates. At auction 20 tins of common quality were bought in at 29s. per cwt.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—The recent arrival by the *Orinoco* included about 30 packages of genuine *Grey Jamaica* sarsaparilla, the bulk of which was offered at to-day's auctions, in addition to some of the same kind of previous importation. Altogether 54 bales were offered, but only 27 sold, at fairly steady prices: 1s. 7d. per lb. for sound, and 1s. 6d. per lb. for slightly damaged root. *Native (red)* Jamaica root was represented by about 10 packages, mostly of fair quality. These were all bought in, fair reddish at 1s. 2d. per lb. There were 13 bales fair *Lima-Jamaica*, partly damaged, as usual, of which one sold at 1s. 4d. per lb. for fair quality. Eight bales chumpy *Guayaquil* were also offered, and found buyers at 1s. 4d. per lb. Four serons fair "Crown" *Honduras* root were bought in at 1s. 6d. per lb.

**SENEGA-ROOT.**—Thirteen bales of fair root were bought in at 1s. 6d. per lb. at auction.

**SENNA.**—Of *Tinnerelly* senna only about 260 bales offered to-day; quality was below the average. A few good lots offered sold at full prices, but for ordinary grades rather easier figures were accepted. Fair bright green leaves sold at 4d. to 5½d., ordinary to medium yellowish leaves at 2d. to 3½d. per lb. Pods sold at 1½d. per lb. Seven cases of *Alexandrian* senna were also offered. Fair whole leaf was bought in at 5d. per lb.; for sifting 2½d. per lb. was rejected.

**SQUILL.**—Six bags of fair quality, offered at auction, sold very cheaply at 1½d. per lb. One or two other lots were bought in.



**TAMARINDS.**—Twenty bales *East Indian* were sold at 6s. 6d. per cwt.

**TONCA BEANS.**—Two cases small to medium black Para beans were bought in to-day at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per lb. Another lot of 2 cases was beld for 2s. per lb. Two casks of fine bold *Angostura* were limited at 8s. 6d. per lb.

**TURMERIC.**—Ten bags, bold but dull grey *Madras* finger, were sho n to-day and bought in at 18s. per cwt.

**VANILLA.**—There was again a rather large quantity of vanilla beans of the new crop (mostly *Seychelles*), which was offered before the commencement of the drug-auctions. Of the 329 tins which passed the hammer the bulk was bought in. Common beans were easier. Good fresh chocc-late, 7½ to 8 inches, realised 22s. to 22s. 6d.; 6½ to 7½ inches, 19s. to 24s.; 4½ to 6 inches, 18s. to 20s. 6d. per lb.

**WAX (JAPAN).**—Several parcels were offered at to-day's auctions. One of 50 cases good pale squares was bought in at 40s. per cwt.; another of 25 cases ditto at the excessive figure of 60s. per cwt.; and yet a third of 38 cases good squares at 40s. per cwt.

#### Heavy Chemicals.

There is not much change to report this week as regards the condition of the heavy-chemical market. Business is fairly active in a few products, and prices are, on the whole, fairly well maintained. At the same time several articles, particularly *Bleaching-powder*, *Sal ammoniac*, *Chlorates of potash and soda*, and *Ammonia soda*, are in a very unsettled condition, and it seems likely that changes will take place before long. The first-mentioned product, especially for future delivery, still continues to be affected by the increase in production by the various processes now working both abroad and at home, and there seems to be little doubt but that the figure which will rule for next year is, as already mentioned, 5l. 5s. per ton for softwood casks, on rails. Price for prompt delivery is, however, 6l. per ton. Chlorates, too, have only a weak tone, and present quotation for the *Potash* is 3¾d. London and 3¾d. per lb. Liverpool. *Chlorate of soda* stands at 4½d., but lower figures would probably be accepted for fair orders for future delivery. It is pleasing to note that *Sulphate of ammonia* firmly maintains the stronger tone lately noted. Very fair business has been done both for prompt and forward delivery, and stocks are now only low. Since last writing a further advance has occurred, and present quotations stand: Beckton terms, prompt, 8l. 17s. 6d.; Beckton, 8l. 17s. 6d., for next year's delivery 9l. 2s. 6d. is asked; Hull, 8l. 18s. 9d.; London, 8l. 17s. 6d.; Leith, 9l. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 414 tons. *Benzols* are only very quiet and a trifle lower, 90 per cent., 1s. 10l.; 50 per cent., 2s. *Sulphate of Copper*, weak, 16l.; Anchor, 16l. 15s.; Liverpool, 16l. 5s.; January-April delivery, 16l. 10s. *Green copperas* scarce and in heavy request, and makers are refusing to quote to any extent for forward delivery; best Lancashire stands at 40s. to 42s., f.o.b. Liverpool, and Welsb at 37s. to 38s. *Brown acetate of lime* tends dearer. Of *Welsh* there is little offering, price is nominally 5l. 10s.; best American stands at 5l. 15s., c.i.f. *Recovered sulphur* very scarce and in demand at 5l. *Arsenic*, best white powdered easier, and in better supply at 22l. 10s.

#### The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on November 24, reports that *Castor oil* has slightly eased off in price, good seconds *Calcutta* now selling at 3¾d. to 3½d. per lb., as in quantity; the first pressing *French* has fallen to 3¾d. per lb., with second pressing at 3½d. per lb. Though the market may be said to be weaker for the moment, there have been considerable sales at these figures, and many holders exhibit confidence in the market for some time to come. Transactions of some importance have occurred in *Kola-nuts*, about 30 to 50 packages of the fresh description being sold at 3d. per lb.; the same price has been paid for good dry. *Cream of tartar* is steady, at prices varying from 80s. to 82s. per cwt. for first white French. Sales of fine *Sierra Leone Chillies* are reported at 37s. 6d. per cwt., and 40s. per cwt. is asked for further lots. *Canary-seed* is flat, with little business passing, at the nominal quotation of 26s. per quarter for *Turkish*, fair average quality. *Sulphate of copper* is better at 16l. 15s. per cwt. with higher prices asked forward. A small business is passing in the various qualities of *Gum Arabic* sorts, which

offer at about late rates. The supply of *Soudan* sorts is limited, and quotations are, if anything, a little steadier—a parcel of *Brazilian* has arrived, and will be auctioned next Wednesday. An arrival of *Maranham balsam copaiba* has been sold at auction from the quay at prices varying about 2s. 1d. per lb. There are sellers of *Russian Aniseed* at 18s. to 19s. per cwt., and the market is very firm indeed at these prices. *Chilian Spermaceti* is beld for 1s. 3¾d. to 1s. 4d. per lb. A parcel of *Cascara sagrada* just arrived was offered at auction from the quay, and sellers declined a bid of 15s., withdrawing it for 17s. cwt. *Guinea grains* are moving off slowly at 30s. to 32s. 6d. cwt. In *Beeswax* there is more activity, and thirty bags of grey *Chilian* have changed hands at 6l. 7s. 6d. cwt., *Gambia* is held for 6l. 5s. cwt. slightly lower figures being refused. For the recent arrivals of *Scammony* root 30s. per cwt. is asked.

#### The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our Hamburg correspondent writes on November 23 that:—"Business in general continues quiet, and few changes have occurred. *Antimony* is quoted to-day 39 m. per 100 kilos. *Aloes (Cape)* unchanged at 48 m. per 100 kilos. *Balsam Peru* is steady at 18 m. per kilo. *Tolu* is quiet, good natural quality for spot delivery is quoted 4¼ m. per kilo. *Citric-acid* is flat, at 240 m. per 100 kilos. *Anise (Russian)* offering more freely, new crop for spot delivery being quoted at 40½ m. per 100 kilos., but probably a little less would be accepted. *Cantharides* show little business at 325 m. to 340 m. per 100 kilos. *Borax* is very quiet, crystals at 30½ m. per 100 kilos. *Cocaine* is firm; some crude cocaine was bought up at 260 m. to 290 m. per kilo., and it is reported that Peru wants now 320 m. for crude. *Cocaine muriate*, pure, is scarce, *Schering* is quoted 330 m.; *Brunswick*, 340 m.; and *Frankfort*, at 350 m. per kilo, but the factories do not seem anxious to sell at all. There appear to be no visible stocks of coca leaves. *Ergot of rye* is very firm, and several sales are reported; prices vary from 150 m. to 170 m. per 100 kilos. according to quality. *Menthol* is steady at 15½ m. per kilo. *Quillaia bark*, for spot delivery, is scarce and dear, but there are very low offers of shipment at about equal to 35 m. per 100 kilos. *Galangal* is easier, at 38m. to 40m. per 100 kilos. *Gentian-root* is offering cheaper, at 46m. per 100 kilos. *Star-anise-seed* has shown an improved demand, and prices have advanced rapidly; 192½m. has been paid to-day, and bolders now ask 197½m. per 100 kilos. *Carnauba-wax* shows a firmer tendency, at 85m. for grey, up to 140m. per 100 kilos. for yellow quality. *Japan wax* is flat, large supplies have come to band; spot delivery is quoted at 73m. and forward at 68-69m. per 100 kilos. *Camphor* is quiet, at 262½m. per 100 kilos. In *Oils*, *cod-liver* shows little business, at 66m. per barrel. *Castor-oil* for spot delivery is scarce, and is beld for 63m. per 100 kilos. in barrels; there are very low offers for delivery next year, which, however, do not attract buyers. In *Essential-oils* *star-anise*, *clove*, and *citronella* all in a firm position. *Cajuput oil* seems to be almost sold out, as much as 98m. to 100m. per case has been paid."

#### The Amsterdam Cinchona-market.

The Amsterdam cinchona auctions on December 9 will consist of 8,216 bales, and 626 cases Java cinchona, weighing together 753,861 kilos. Of this quantity 720,507 kilos. are from private plantations. The rest is Government bark. The first-band stock at Amsterdam on November 16 (including the quantity offered for sale at auction) was 9,737 packages. The tone of the market remains very firm.

#### The Bergen Cod-liver Oil Market.

Our Bergen correspondent, writing on November 22, reports the market is very quiet, 67s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms, being still the quotation for best *Lofoten* non-congealing oil. The exports from Bergen up to date are 9,493 barrels, against 5,392 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

THE will and codicil of Mr. Abraham Morvoseph, drug-merchant, Peadenhall Street, who died at his residence, 19 Fetherthorn Road, Canonbury, on October 7 last, have been proved by Mr. Simeon Lang, the nephew, and Mr. Eleaza. Pool, 38 Grosvenor Road, Canonbury, the acting executors. The testator's personality is sworn at 2,852l. 14s. 3d. gross and 2,728l. 14s. 7d. net.





*In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.*

#### The Registrar Explains.

SIR,—My attention has been directed to the article on the rectification of the register which appeared in your last issue, and I shall be obliged if you will assist me by making known the following facts:—

1. In pursuance of the provisions contained in Section X. of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, two registered letters have been sent to every person whose name appears on the list you were good enough to publish recently at my request. Your correspondent, on calling at my office, can see the actual letters which were addressed to him, and which have been returned to me through the Dead-letter Office.

2. With the despatch of the second registered letter to persons whose addresses are unknown, the statutory conditions are fulfilled, and I am under no obligation to involve myself in trouble, and the Society in expense, by preparing and publishing what is variously described as the "doomed list," "black list," or "defaulters' list." The publication of that list is a purely voluntary effort on my part to save the persons, whose names appeared in it, from the consequences of their neglect to keep me acquainted with their correct addresses.

Experience has proved that this publication of the list is the most efficacious method of saving thoughtless persons from the erasure of their names from the Register, and the circumstance that one or two of them object to being protected does not appear to be a sufficiently strong argument for discontinuing any effort to keep the Register correct.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD BREMIDGE, Registrar,  
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,  
17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., November 23.

#### The P.A.T.A. Controversy.

SIR,—Mr. Day says in his last letter that doubtless the officials of the P.A.T.A. "are rewarded in proportion to their zeal and ingenuity." However that may be, it is certain that to read and understand his very lengthy and involved letter calls forth a good deal of both zeal and ingenuity. We have, of course, no reason to complain of the very valuable help he is continuing to give us in proving, by his almost hysterical utterances, the growing power of the P.A.T.A., and in showing so palpably how hard he is being hit. Mr. Day is naturally vexed that the little scheme to upset the P.A.T.A., to sow discord in our ranks, and to shake the faith of our friends (his opponents) in our movement failed. Mr. Day goes over so much ground that it would be a waste of time and your space to reiterate what I have already written. Mr. Day's charge of inconsistency has been already replied to, and, it is evident, to the satisfaction of our friends. He, of course, pretends not to understand, but it is of the smallest importance to the trade, or our movement, whether he thinks we are consistent or not. I am afraid that the only consistency that would satisfy Mr. Day would be a cast-iron code of regulations through which, as with Acts of Parliament, it would be possible for him to drive a coach-and-four, and thus upset the movement. Mr. Day himself changes his position as best suits his purpose. One day he will sign agreements, the next day not. At one time he will only take 10 per cent. profit, at another he signs an agreement to take 33 per cent., and to sell at face-value. I do not object to Mr. Day fighting with any weapons he chooses, nor how often he changes those weapons, but months ago we told him that we should suit our attack to his defence. Notwithstanding this, I have

already explained we have still adhered to the main feature of our present plan, and I can only say that we know of no case where supplies are not stopped to firms cutting any one article on our list. Mr. Day is needlessly worrying himself about our plan, though, for we have already said we are not tied to one plan or one plan at a time. As to Mr. Day's ridiculous attempt to prove we cannot buy up the very limited stocks he is able to get at retail prices, and through an occasional traitor, I can only say that we do not want 65,000 people to buy up the handful of goods he thus obtains. Three families in the neighbourhood of each shop are all that is wanted, and, if necessary, we could quadruple that number.

Mr. Day asks me nine questions. The first seven I have already replied to. No. 8 is a challenge—almost a bet—to prove he has not 1,000% worth of protected articles. We have never said Mr. Day has no stocks of P.A.T.A. goods, or that he could not, through his various branches, buy up even 3,000% worth of P.A.T.A. articles, at a price, in a week. Our contention is that P.A.T.A. articles cannot be bought by Messrs. Day from the proprietors or wholesale houses. And we have proved, and he has admitted, he has bought them at retail prices. Another point to remember is that if Mr. Day has forty shops (I think he has more), even 1,000% worth of P.A.T.A. articles is little to boast about, especially when you remember his large purchases of Munyon's to sell at full retail price, and the stock he held before they came on the list. I have no concern with Mr. Day's charge that I am evading and shuffling. The P.A.T.A. supporters will interpret his charge into meaning that I have not been foolish enough to allow him to "draw" me into sending him a full account of each of our committee meetings. The only information I can give Mr. Day which might possibly be useful to him is that if he sells P.A.T.A. articles at P.A.T.A. prices, he will find no difficulty in understanding our every action. I hope Mr. Day will understand, once and for all, that he will get no information from us which will be likely to help him to fight us. He has taken up the position of an opponent, and he cannot therefore expect to occupy the position of a confidant.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. GLYN-JONES.

2 and 3 Stonecutter Street, London, E.C., November 24.

SIR,—Mr. Glyn-Jones drew me into this correspondence by saying "a letter addressed to the P.A.T.A. instructing him to add my article to the list was all I had to do to put the whole country on a fairer basis." I have proved that this would not be the case, as protected articles are openly cut in scores of towns. No one should be hoodwinked by his remarks that I picked the town and the four shops. I had no idea these shops were fighting the P.A.T.A., neither did I give my representative orders to call at any special places. He was assured that they had no difficulty in obtaining all they required, and that they do not lose money thereby. I now find that cut prices are given even in price-lists by various firms, who court the public patronage by introducing into their advertisements remarks about the P.A.T.A. and its methods for attempting to keep up prices, and even print a copy of the P.A.T.A. agreement. I state without fear of contradiction that the majority of the members of the trade who have looked for salvation to the P.A.T.A. were not aware, until my letter of November 13 appeared, that these protected articles were obtainable freely and openly in scores of towns at cut prices, and, now that I have enlightened them, surely they will see it is better they should know how they stand than work under a delusion. It is hard to convince a man against his will, and the *Anti-cutting Record* does not chronicle these facts, but it would have been wrong on my part to withhold the information and leave retailers in the dark. With regard to Mr. Glyn-Jones's two questions, which to anyone who has followed this correspondence must appear ridiculous—

(1) I already know, having had weekly reports from my travellers, who cover the whole of Great Britain, during the last ten years, and numerous letters.

(2) I already know, and I am well aware, how utterly impossible it would be for any firm to act upon these wishes in most cases. The majority naturally want all the profit they can get; some say they will not be satisfied until they have a living profit, which they cannot get.



When Mr. Glyn-Jones states "I can if I choose ensure that profit," it must be clear to any sensible man that he is making a reckless statement, and that it is quite beyond my power to do anything of the sort. If every manufacturer of patent medicines were to put his retail prices up to face-value or to living-profit prices, if it could be settled what these are, cutting would still continue. As I have for many years followed the question of cutting carefully here, and during my eighteen visits to America, I fancy your readers will conclude I know something about it, and I would commend them all to study your leading articles "Profit," of November 13, and "What is the Patent-medicine Trade Worth," of November 20. I will just add that in America, when a firm cuts goods to cost-price, retailers in the neighbourhood are cute enough to keep buying their requirements from him, and he sometimes gets tired.

Mr. Glyn-Jones says: "Mr. Beecham's attempt to prove that our work is a failure will provide him with no excuse for not doing as other firms have done before the P.A.T.A. existed—namely, to guarantee a profit by an individual scheme such as Messrs. Elliman's." I am aware that Messrs. Elliman have for many years restricted the selling-price of their embrocation, and I am also aware (if Mr. Glyn-Jones is not) that they have lately found it advisable to make up an 8½% size, and put this size on the market without any restriction whatever as regards wholesale and retail selling-prices!

I see no advantage to be gained by continuing the controversy, especially as Mr. Glyn-Jones misquotes my last letter, avoids my main statement, and splits up at least one of my paragraphs to give my reasoning quite a different meaning.

I thank you for the space you have allotted me during the past few weeks, and repeat the hope that mutual agreements may yet become popular and tend to mutual good feeling.

Yours truly,

St. Helens, November 24.

THOMAS BEECHAM.

SIR,—The correspondence in your columns relative to the sale of "patents" is both interesting and amusing. Interesting, as an illustration of the lines on which the patent-medicine trade is now apparently to be conducted, and also as a revelation of what the manufacturers of these articles consider the retailers' fair share of profit; and amusing, as showing the tenacity with which numbers of our craft cling to what is now a worthless branch of trade, when pursued at the cutting-prices of which some vendors seem so enamoured. Ten-per-cent. profit looks at first glance handsome, and were medicines, like eatables, articles in hourly and constant demand, it would doubtless prove to be so. But those who have any acquaintance with retail drug-business know how comparatively limited is the demand for even the most popular nostrum, and cannot admit that 10 per cent. is an adequate profit even with the "quick return" so alluringly dangled before our eyes. As a "side line," patents at such prices may answer the purpose of a bait for grocers, drapers, and storekeepers, but for the chemist, whose aim is to live by the pursuit of his legitimate calling, there can be no need to do the bidding of manufacturers by selling at such homœopathic rates of profit as they prescribe for us. If we sell fewer of their proprietaries at remunerative prices our lot is surely equal to that of the extreme cutter with his feverish anxiety to extend an almost profitless branch of business, even if his sale be double or treble our own. Few of us, perhaps, can maintain face values; but we can, at any rate, stand out for a reasonable profit, which must certainly be something more than 10 per cent., and which in our case is merely another term for the "living wage" of the artisan.

But judging by the trouble and expense to which some folk put themselves in the matter of underselling their neighbours in proprietary articles, one might imagine that the chief end of man was to glorify the patent-medicine proprietor, and thrust his wares at cost-price down the throat of the British public.

Yours respectfully,

Mexborough, Yorkshire,  
November 22.

R. J. SHIELDS.

SIR,—From Mr. Glyn-Jones's insistence, Mr. Day's eloquence, and Mr. Beecham's cruel facts we receive, no doubt, great entertainment and instruction; but with your kind

permission I should like to place the question of selling-prices as it presents itself to me.

Broadly, is it or is it not a fact that largely-advertised goods are cut to provide a cheap advertisement for the cutter? Is this or is it not *bona-fide* business? If not honest business, will it in course of time find its own level? Mr. Glyn-Jones says it is not straight on the ground that a working profit must be made on every article, or another article must be mulcted with that deficiency. The *C. & D.* gives approximately 10 per cent. as the working-expenses of a huge business, which may therefore be taken as the minimum. I submit to Mr. Beecham that unless there is 20 per cent. on his pills some other similar goods must pay more than a 20-per-cent. profit. If my inferences are incorrect I should like to know why. We cannot work a business on theoretical lines, but we ought to grasp what we are after.

I am not concerned as to whether Mr. Jones is consistent or honest, or merely a useful entity in providing Mr. Day with an object upon which to air his extraordinary command of language. It does not alter facts if Mr. Beecham proves the P.A.T.A. an absolute failure.

Faithfully yours,

November 23.

A. B. C. (18/35.)

SIR,—Being a cutting chemist I have, up to the present, kept myself clear from correspondence on the subject of the P.A.T.A. But I have been vastly amused at the volume and vehemence of Mr. Day's correspondence in your valuable paper. If he is so little affected by the P.A.T.A. where is the need of so great a waste of his valuable time? If he is not afraid of their strength, why does he not rest on his laurels, and smile at their futile efforts?

With regard to his enormous stocks of protected articles, I may say that a short time ago I had the pleasure of being on the black-list for some six weeks, and tried to get along by obtaining supplies from various branches of Messrs. Day's by the help of numerous friends and relations. But, strange to say, these articles were nearly always out of stock (temporarily, of course); so, in the end, I signed the P.A.T.A. agreement, and now, having found that my sales do not suffer, and my profits go up, my feelings have changed, and, instead of bitter enmity, I feel quite friendly to Mr. Day's bugbear.

Yours sincerely,

QUALIFIED PRINCIPAL. (17/61.)

SIR,—Mr. Beecham attacks P.A.T.A. methods, and apparently would suggest that, given an efficient organisation, he is in sympathy with some form of protection against extreme cutting. But I believe his eyes are blinded by the magnitude of his own business, and thus he is likely to ignore the small chemist. If he is honest in his expression of sympathy, as I believe he is, a demand for an expression of opinion from the trade from him would carry a peculiar weight, as coming from one of our largest patent-medicine proprietors, involving an article of daily sale. If he does not care for P.A.T.A. methods there is an alternative. He might initiate some such scheme as Mr. Elliman's, and it is absolutely certain that some attempt to cope with the present position would pay him.

I remain, yours faithfully,

November 16.

PER ARDUA. (14/7.)

SIR,—Mr. Beecham gives a list of cut prices charged by certain firms for P.A.T.A. articles. This seems to prove that these firms are breaking faith with the makers of these articles, and if they break faith with one maker they will probably do so with others. In such a case what good can Mr. Beecham's agreement do, for it gives no power to punish those who undersell after signing? The P.A.T.A. has power to punish such defaulters by withholding supplies. I think it is apparent that, in this respect, the P.A.T.A. scheme is better than Mr. Beecham's. Yours truly,

Frome, November 17.

G. W. H. (13/46.)

Shall Chemists Cease to Sell Patent Medicines?

SIR,—In reply to the suggestion in your leader, I find that during a certain period in which I have taken 300% in the shop there would be included about 500 stamped proprietary articles (not including my own), and about 100 prescriptions dispensed.

Yours truly,

H. C. (17/57.)



SIR,—Mr. Beecham says, "10 per cent. profit on a quick turnover is better than 25 per cent. on a slow one."

Apparently unassailable! I suppose he would say with equal assurance that 5 per cent. on his pills at double the rate would also be better than the 25 per cent. on a slow one, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. at four times the rate would also be as good, and at five times the rate much better. But how quick is this rate to be for the majority of his distributors? What about the work?

Mr. Beecham says, "The cutters can and do fix the prices." Then it is only fair that he should step in and prevent them using his proprietaries as a cat's-paw to the detriment of the great hulk of his distributors. Yours truly,

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND. (12/16.)

SIR,—It seems that chemists are expected to retail other people's goods without any remuneration at all, and proprietors will scarcely move a finger to allow them a living profit. So far as I can see the remedy rests with chemists themselves. My experience proves that they have an immense influence, especially with the middle and lower classes, amongst whom these goods chiefly circulate, and if they would take a firm stand on the question, it would practically cease to exist.

Why should they continue to give their support and sanction to a system in which they themselves have not the slightest faith? Had they not better clear their shelves of such goods, which do not in any way benefit them, and explain to their customers that they cannot retail goods for which they cannot accept any responsibility, and which may be good or may be absolutely useless. I find that people generally go on the assumption that a chemist is a respectable conscientious man, and the very presence of such goods gives them a prestige which they would not possess if excluded from his shop.

Such a course would shake the faith of the public in quackery; it would widen the distinction between a chemist and a patent-medicine store, and it would raise the level of the chemist himself, and so bring him a step nearer to that desired haven—viz., "a professional man."

I hope some day to be able to put this into practice myself, and would be glad to do so now if others would join in publicly condemning and disavowing it. I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

76 Victoria Street, Grimshy,  
November 10.

J. WRIGHT.

#### The Still-licence.

SIR,—I notice in your answer to "Chemicus," in your issue of November 20, you say no licence is required for the use of a retort or still for analytical purposes. Some few months ago I purchased a small Liebig condenser for analysis of potable water. I wrote Inland Revenue authorities asking if such might be used for analytical purposes without a licence, explaining that it would only be used in the examination of water. A few days after I had a visit from the local officer to see it, and after a week or so I had a letter from the Board saying it was necessary to have a licence for it.

I was given to understand afterwards that exemption was only allowed to chemists who were purely analytical.

Faithfully yours,

W. BUDDLES (John Beddard).

46 Churton Street, Belgrave Road, S.W.

#### Hospital Dispensing.

SIR,—Surely there must be some mistake about the dispensers at a London hospital being able to dispense one hundred prescriptions an hour, and, at the same time, throw in a few consolatory words to the pauper recipients. I have had much experience in this sort of work and have never seen it done, nor am I inclined to think it possible; even should it be attempted I think it ought to be prevented by those in authority. There is certainly some urgency in the dispensing of hospitals, and I can remember when it was expected to be done at express rate; but latterly a class of dispensers with their advanced knowledge have brought about a condition of independence among them which has

gradually, but surely, taught the hospital authorities that they cannot order about their dispenser in the manner customary many years ago. It behoves dispensers to maintain their rights in this direction, and show by their conduct that they belong to a calling which in their particular case is certainly professional, and in status not much beneath those they have the honour to dispense for. By this process many of the evils complained of will in time be removed.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

DISPENSER. (18/45.)

#### The Poet Explains.

SIR,—In your issue of November 13, appeared some verses written by myself, and about which you remarked that while you failed to see the precise point satirised, you yet published them, because, forsooth, they "jingled prettily." On the other hand, in your last issue, Mr. Hyslop, with most paternal solicitude, expounded the exact point of this satire, and characterised it as "sharp and piercing." Now, when two gentlemen of mature judgment, like yourself and Mr. Hyslop, disagree over a point like this, one naturally feels some diffidence in expressing an opinion; and I think that, perhaps, I ought to have added an explanatory footnote to my humble verse, after the manner of the little hoy who, having made a drawing from Nature, critically examined his work, and wrote at the bottom—"This is a kow."

The verses were suggested to my mind by the fact (which I gathered from the hattle of words waging in the pages of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST between Mr. Day and Mr. Glyn-Jones) that Mr. Day, in order, as he said, to destroy the P.A.T.A., had entered into a private agreement with Messrs. Munyon to sell their goods at non-cutting prices, and had evidently purchased large quantities of their goods. In the same issue in which he announced this *coup d'état* appeared what looked like an anticipation in a notice that at a recent meeting of the P.A.T.A. it was decided to ask Messrs. Munyon either to practically repudiate Messrs. Day or to withdraw from the Association. In either case, Mr. Day's position appeared to be an unlucky one, and I considered this a very neat way, on the part of the P.A.T.A., of turning the tables against Mr. Day—and hence those apparently enigmatical verses.

I admit that this exposition does not coincide with that given by Mr. Hyslop; and perhaps I ought not to contradict a gentleman of such evident learning. At any rate, it has given him a peg upon which to hang his erudition and an opportunity to air his little idiosyncrasy against anything savouring of quackery—even a "quack association." I am, however, a little surprised to find towards the end of Mr. Hyslop's letter that he slips into such a mixed metaphor as "angels of light seeking whom they may devour," but at this point, perhaps, his indignation overcame him. I suppose, after this, Mr. Hyslop will say I am one of the "bladder-like" young men he speaks of in his letter, and that I have spent my miserable time in vilifying my poor *almus pater*, who so kindly expounded my verse, which the wicked Editor had so cruelly slated. May a poor "poet" never want a happier exponent than Mr. Hyslop!

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

November 24.

H. F. (19/28.)

#### Dr. Lucas, the Irish Patriot.

SIR,—It may interest some of your Irish readers, especially Dubliners, to know that the Dr. Lucas referred to by Sir C. Cameron in his lecture is buried in St. Michin's Churchyard.

A bitter opponent of intrigue and everything dishonourable, he had on one occasion to fly to France to escape the vengeance of the Government, who would gladly have hung him if they could, for over and over again exposing their dishonesty.

Being an invalid during almost the whole of his long parliamentary career, he had to be constantly carried in and out of the House of Commons, and when he died, his remains were followed to their last resting-place by the members of the Irish Houses of Parliament, and a vast concourse of the citizens of Dublin.

The following is the inscription on his tombstone:—

Charles Lucas, M.D., formerly one of the representatives in Parliament for the City of Dublin, whose incorrupt integrity unconquered spirit, just judgment, and glorious perseverance in



the great cause of Liberty, Virtue, and his Country, endeared him to his grateful constituents.

Lucas! Hibernia's friend, her joy and pride,  
Her powerful bulwark, and her skilful guide,  
Firm in the senate, steady in his trust,  
Unmoved by fear, and obstinately just.

CHARLES LUCAS, born September 20, 1713.  
Died November 4, 1771.

I think if some of the past and present members of Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland would even in a very small degree try to emulate the principles of the great Dr. Lucas, it would add considerably to their own reputation, and be a material benefit to the Society.

Yours truly,

45 Donore Avenue, Dublin. ARTHUR REYNOR.

P.S.—Lucas was the only medical man who ever sat in the Irish House of Parliament.

#### Jubilee of Anæsthetics.

SIR,—Nothing was forthcoming at the commemoration of the bi-centenary Jubilee of anæsthetics to reassure the public of absolute safety under any of the various anæsthetics in use. It was said: "Even the youngest practitioner is now, as a rule, so well equipped that the percentage of patients to whom the administration of chloroform is attended with fatal effects has been reduced almost to as near a minimum as we can hope to get for the present."

Though everybody knows that the power of chloroform has been shamefully abused by its administration not sufficiently diluted with common air, the orator goes on to say: "Chloroform was capable of acting directly upon the blood, the muscles of the heart, and the nervous system," without mentioning the warning given by Snow fifty years ago that "if the air the patient [is breathing] contains from 5 to 10 per cent. and more of vapour of chloroform, the risk is one of sudden death by syncope, or sudden and unsuspected arrest of the heart's action."

But now comes the essence of the oration. "And unless it was given by experienced men, it might destroy the tissues of the body. This knowledge of the potent character of the drug was in itself a great advantage. Persons who knew little about it administered it recklessly, and jeopardised lives. In knowledge lay safety, and it had been abundantly proved that safety depended more upon the skill and experience of the chloroformist than upon any particular form of inhalation." The effective reply to this optimistic view is the eighty-six inquests held on patients who died suddenly under an anæsthetic during the first ten months of this year, in England alone, against two deaths from chloroform per year reported for England during the first ten years of chloroform in Snow's days.

At a recent inquest in Marylebone, on a child who died under chloroform at the Middlesex Hospital, the Coroner, Dr. Danford Thomas, remarked "that about one in four or five thousand cases under chloroform proved fatal. It was difficult to say how or why the fatalities occurred. Some people with heart-disease took the anæsthetic well, while others who were strong and hearty died under its influence." But is it difficult to understand these fatalities? Dr. Anstie, Dr. A. E. Sansom (who is still amongst us), and Dr. William Martin Coates, amongst others, arrived, from experiments and extensive clinical experience, at the same conclusion as Snow did before them, that "death was alone caused by breathing air too highly charged with chloroform-vapour," and that, unless due mechanical means are employed for regulating the proper proportion of chloroform-vapour in the air the patient is breathing, death from this agent will continue to occur, even in the hands of so-called "skilled" and "experienced," but not learned, chloroformists. Snow recommended the administration of chloroform in such a slow, progressive way as to make sudden death by syncope an impossibility (in doses rising from  $\frac{1}{20}$  of a minim gradually to and not to exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  minim at any time during the inhalation). There is no getting away from the truth, spoken and confirmed over and over again, that the safety of the patient depends entirely on the mode and manner in which a known quantity of chloroform is administered in a given time, and that death under chloroform is always the result of an overdose, due to a faulty method employed in its

administration, to ignorance, or sheer carelessness on the part of the administrator of the fatal overdose.

K. (18/67.)

#### The Surgical-instrument Business in Canada.

SIR,—In your issue of September 25, page 528, you quote from the Blue-book on Foreign Competition in the Colonies certain figures showing how American and continental surgical instruments are supplanting British ones in Canada. You call this "a disgraceful defeat." The subject admits of a great deal of discussion, and we would give you a superficial idea of it as it appears to us. We would like to see a change, and once more to place the business on the footing it once had. We believe the allegations to be true, as no doubt there are a great many more instruments imported from Germany and the U.S.A. than there were ten years ago. Germany of late years has been making rapid strides in the manufacture of instruments, also in many lines of shelf-hardware, and the British lines have been ousted correspondingly. Again, the manufacture of instruments in the U.S.A. is of comparatively recent, but rapid, growth, and in many instances the goods from the States excel in pattern and price. Every instrument of any worth invented in Britain is soon copied and made at a price usually lower than that ruling in Britain, and in many cases the article is quite as good. The exception is in cutting instruments, which, in our case at all events, are nearly all purchased in Britain. Some continental houses now make fine lines of surgical goods, and, naturally, if prices are lower, they obtain the business. We buy but few lines in the U.S.A., yet many are imported on account of the proximity of the country, of the advertising by American makers in journals read in Canada, and because the U. States travelling-men are continually drumming the country. We never see a representative of British manufacturing or wholesale houses, nor do we ever note a change in the price of British goods from that which ruled years ago, no effort being made by British firms to compete with makers in other countries who cut under. Germany and the States show a commendable enterprise in taking hold of new articles and in the general appearance of their instruments. The only remedies we can see are (1) close attention by British makers to all lines in which competition is specially keen; (2) preferential trade relations; (3) the patenting of all new goods. Few instruments are patented now, British medical men, we understand, wishing their inventions placed open to all, but if they were, and patents were taken out in Germany and the U. States, then British surgeons' inventions would be placed only in the hands of reputable makers. Many instruments now sold would not be recognised by their inventors.

Regarding optical lines generally the U.S.A. take a prominent place, and justly so, as their manufacturers are up to date, pay strict attention to their output, and make very creditable articles, while their proximity to Canada helps their business here, and we cannot see how this can ever be overcome unless by preferential trade relations. Most microscopes come from Germany and Vienna.

In rubber goods Germany does a larger business here; many of its products are well made and well finished, the prices low, and agents have their goods in hand and continually push their sale. The U.S.A. lead in white rubber goods—sheeting, tubing, syringes, atomisers, elastic bands, &c.

What are the remedies? We answer: (1) Preferential trade relations; (2) British firms to appoint agents and compete down to the point of cost, if necessary, until they regain the market.

It is well known that in dental goods the U.S.A. lead the world. Dental operating-instruments are admitted into Canada at the same rate of duty as surgical instruments, and it is possible that they are placed in the same category, thus making the imports from the U.S.A. of surgical instruments seem bigger than they really are.

We cannot name special instances of displacement of trade as the movement seems to be pretty general. Keen competition and not lassitude should be the order of the day.

Hoping these few remarks may be of some service to you.

Yours truly,

PATERSON & FOSTER,  
Surgical, Dental, and Veterinary  
Instrument Importers.

Montreal, October 14.



## DISPENSING NOTES.

*This section is intended for the elucidation of dispensing difficulties. Subscribers and their employes may contribute to it, criticising any of the following notes or contributing notes on prescriptions which they have found to be of unusual interest.*

## The Irish Suppositories.

SIR,—I am very much surprised to see your correspondent's letter *re* "Suppositories," in which he states he dispensed, according to his *modus operandi*, a suppository to contain  $7\frac{1}{2}$  minims of hazeline. When he states he rubbed it up in the usual way, I presume he means by heating the cocoa-butter and rubbing in the hazeline. I question the amount of hazeline when finished. I may mention for his edification that they had previously been tried, and found an utter impossibility to our satisfaction—*i.e.*, as a 15-gr. suppository. But had we wished to dispense the prescription as your correspondent directs I am sure our results and his would be identical, but our desire was to dispense the prescription to contain the requisite amount of hazeline, and to do so our only way out of the difficulty was by a cold process, using some inert powder to absorb the hazeline and dispense as 30 gr. As to his suggestion about our using any medicinal substance otherwise than prescribed, may I ask what is dry extract of belladonna? May I suggest to your correspondent to ask himself will  $7\frac{1}{2}$  gr. of cocoa-butter absorb  $7\frac{1}{2}$  minims of a liquid? The melting point of cocoa-butter is  $95^{\circ}$  F., and supposing he does not exceed that, will hazeline, a spirituous liquid, not volatilise?

Yours truly,

Dublin, November 21.

W. VINCENT JOHNSTON.

SIR,—In a foot-note to my letter you say, "Does our correspondent mean that in each suppository there are  $6\frac{1}{2}$  minims of hazeline, and that there was no volatilisation while making the batch?" That is exactly what I mean. This is how I made them. To the morphia and cocaine in powder I added the proper quantity of ext. bellad. in dry powder and rubbed the whole down on a slab with the 80 min. hazeline gradually. To this I added, also gradually, the ol. theobrom. previously melted, mixed the whole well with a spatula, transferred to a tin, warmed over water-bath, and poured into the mould. No volatilisation could go on while rubbing down on the slab, for it was cold, and the oil soon congealed. The time taken for warming up again in the tin was just 45 seconds. I noted this as I was anxious to avoid over-heating, both on account of the belladonna and hazeline. I think, therefore, I may fairly say no volatilisation occurred then. Not that I think a little heating over warm water for a short time could harm the hazeline, for I notice that B., W. & Co. in their directions say it may be sprinkled on flannels wrung out in hot water, and I should think that a greater application of heat than the above. As regards there being no odour of hazeline, that is easily explained. I noted, on rubbing it down with the belladonna, that the latter almost covered the odour of the hazeline, and that on adding the oil the smell of the hazeline could not be detected.

Yours faithfully,

Southport.

H. ROBERTS.

## Examination Prescriptions.

7/30. A. W. L. sends us a sample of a good emulsion he has made from the Examination Prescription given in *C. & D.*, November 6, 1897, page 744, made as follows:—Rub the egg in a mortar with  $\frac{3}{8}$  ss. of water, then add  $\frac{5}{8}$  ss. turpentine, and well rub together. To the thick cream resulting add the remainder of the turpentine and the oil of cajuput. Transfer to the bottle, add the acetic acid and water, and thoroughly shake.

Jaspar (16/62) also writes:—Emulsify egg with equal bulk of water, strain through muslin, place in a bottle and add the oils, previously mixed together, in small quantities at a time, constantly shaking, then add acetic acid and water, q. s. *Ointment*.—Mix liquids in measure, melt the zinc ointment at a low temperature and add liquids, stir till united, and pour into dispensing pot and place pot in cold water to set quickly. The ointment must not be rubbed on slab or mortar after the ingredients have united as the rubbing will throw the water out again. If the ointment is

dispensed as above it will turn out a very satisfactory product, and does not show any tendency to separate.

## Guaiacol in Pills.

SIR,—Would you kindly explain how the following can be made into pills?—

Guaiacol ... .. 5j.  
(From beechwood, as F.Ph.)

M. et divide in pil xij. Coated.

I tried several methods, but without success.

GUAIACOL. (262/6.)

[These are best made by Martindale's method for creosote pills—5j. guaiacol is heated in a water-bath with the same quantity of powdered curd soap till combined. In this case the prescriber seems to mean the crystals of the *Codex Supp.*, which are massed in the same way, being very deliquescent. As the pills will be larger than can be taken with ease, the mass should be divided into twenty-four pills, taking care to mark the prescription to that effect. The very great absorbent power of kieselguhr can be taken advantage of in place of the powdered soap in a case like this.]

## Ext. Cannab Ind. in Mixture.

SIR,—How would you dispense the following prescription?—

Ext. cannab. ind. ... .. 5ss.  
Tr. belladonnæ ... .. 5j.  
Tr. aurant. ... .. 5ij.  
Glycerini ... .. 5viij.  
Aquæ ad ... .. 5xvj.

Yours truly,

NOVASTOL. (260/16)

[Make a tincture of the ext. cannab. ind. in 5ij. S.V.R. and by the aid of 3 or 4 dr. of mucilage suspend it in the mixture.]

## Where Mucilage Comes in Useful.

SIR,—Could you tell me the best way to dispense the following?—

Ac. phos. dil. ... .. mc.  
Ext. piscidiæ liq. ... .. 5x.  
Tr. cunicifugæ ... .. 5vj.  
Aq. chlorof. ad ... .. 5x.

M.

After a time dark clots separate out and stick to the side of the bottle.

Yours truly,

F. C. (258/38.)

[Mucil. acaciæ 3ss. will allow the resinous matter in this mixture to remain suspended some considerable time and prevent clotting on the side of the bottle.]

## Lanolin Emulsion.

SIR,—Kindly inform me through the Dispensing Notes of the *C. & D.* the best way to dispense the following:—

Ichthyol. ... .. 5j.  
Lanolin. ... .. 5iij.  
Vaselin. alb. ... .. 5j.  
Pulv. tragac. ... .. gr. v.  
Ac. borici ... .. gr. xvj.  
Ol. geranii ... .. miv.  
Aq. rosæ conc. ... .. 5j.

M. Ft. emulsio.

Yours, &c.,

SODA. (252/53.)

[Make a mucilage with the tragacanth and aq. rosæ, and, having mixed all the other ingredients together, add the mucilage. It yields a good emulsion.]

## Ung. Iodidi.

SIR,—Should be pleased if you would kindly help us by giving your decision on a point, doubtful and the cause of much dispute. The *casus belli* is ung. iodidi. I suggest that it means ung. potassii iodidi, taking for granted that the word iodidi means a salt of the iodine.

Several inquiries have been made, and nearly all agree that ung. iodi should be given, to which I do not agree.

Yours respectfully,

WEST NORWOOD. (85/6.)



[This is exactly one of those points which none but the prescriber can definitely settle. The choice lies amongst ung. hydrarg. iod. rub., ung. iodi, ung. potass. iodidi, ung. sulphur. iodidi, and, probably, ung. cadmii iodidi. As soon as the assumption of an iodide comes in the dispenser flounders badly, and it seems better to reason that the prescriber's pen ran quicker than his wits, so that he wrote a syllable too much.]

260/14. *D. S. B.*—The cause of the explosion in your mixture is fermentation.

7/32. *E. E. B.*—The formula is simply a modified kind of lead plaster, and will make a good ointment with a little hard work.

## LEGAL QUERIES.

*We do not give legal opinions by post. Information regarding most legal matters in connection with pharmacy will be found in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, and in "Pharmacy and Poison Laws of the United Kingdom," and Alpe's "Handy-book of Medicine-stamp Duty."*

12/24. *Devonian.*—You can only protect your pamphlet from being copied by entering it at Stationers' Hall under the Copyright Act (5s.). Write for form to Stationers' Hall, London, E.C. In the event of your prosecuting an infringer you would have to satisfy a Court that your pamphlet possessed "literary or artistic merit," and unless it were something more than a mere advertisement this might not be admitted.

82/37. *Index.*—The company can call itself a chemist, though some of the shareholders are not on the register. The company may not use your old labels unless its exact title with the word "Limited" is printed over the old name. You may still remain the tenant of the premises, sub-letting to the company. The landlord might object to the transfer of the lease.

14/43. *Magister.*—Whether a house is in repair or not is always a question of fact for the jury. Courts have, however, defined "good repair" to be such a state of repair as would satisfy a reasonable tenant. We should say that a landlord was not bound to paint the showboard, but if the shutters are in such a state as you say, "falling to pieces," the landlord would, we think, be bound to repair them. The tenant would not be justified in deducting the costs of repair from the rent as the landlord could distrain for the whole. His proper remedy is to bring an action against the landlord for damages, or for a declaration that the outside of the premises is not in repair, or both. (2) Where a person takes an assignment of a lease he makes himself liable for the repairs which the assignor was responsible for. It is, no doubt, a rule of law that the assignee is only liable for dilapidations which accrue during the term of his occupation; but the lessor can eject him if the premises are not in repair, and it does not matter whether such non-repair was due to his predecessor or himself. You should have seen to the repairs when you took over the lease.

16/40. *H. G. S.*—If the powders consist of antipyrin simply they are not liable to medicine-stamp duty however they are recommended or entitled.

16/3. *Old Sub.*—For particulars concerning registration of company see DIARY. Any solicitor will put the registration through for you if you do not care to do it yourself. Novelties are noticed in this journal as they come before us. The formula-book will be published shortly.

13/50. *Nephrit.*—We do not make out what you asked the Board of Inland Revenue. You can hardly expect them to advise you on such a general circular as you send us. Some of your preparations are clearly liable, others are not. Have you studied Alpe's "Handy-book"? That should guide you; and then if there is any article about which there is fair room to doubt the Board will give their opinion. This is a concession which chemists ought to value. Your remark that the Board is at the same time your accuser and your

judge is not a fair one. The Board is not anyone's judge. Anybody from whom a penalty is claimed can go before a magistrate if he thinks fit.

252/19. *A. W.*—It altogether depends upon who took the risk, and in the absence of information on that point we cannot advise you.

## MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

*We reply to our subscribers and their employés only; queries must, therefore, be authenticated by the name and address of the subscriber. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and the name of the querist should be placed on the sample. Queries are not replied to by post.*

2/52. *W. W.*—(1) In the 1895 DIARY you will find many formulæ for both lavender water and eau de Cologne. (2) About 8 gr. to the ounce.

63/39. *Acid Tart.*—Liver-mixture:—

Ac. nit. mur. dil.	...	...	...	3iij. ℥xxx.
Ext. cinchon. liq.	...	...	...	3ij.
Tr. podophylli	...	...	...	3ij.
Ext. tarax. liq.	...	...	...	3ij.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3ij.
Inf. chirette ad	...	...	...	℥j.

Mix and filter bright.

One tablespoonful two or three times a day after meals.

4/46. *Bunsen.*—(1) Joints of Iron Pipes are sometimes rusted together with chloride of lime applied in the form of a paste. Is that what you mean? (2) Powdered boric acid is the best diluent for iodoform.

4/41. *Querist.*—(1) We cannot trace your letter. (2) If you find that the addition of the solution of the hypophosphites of lime and soda to the finished cod-liver oil emulsion made with Irish moss upsets the emulsion, you had better incorporate the solid hypophosphites mechanically; they will dissolve fairly readily.

4/40. *Zingib.*—Ginger-wine Powder.—Why add the caramel (the cause of your powder going damp) at all? Ginger-wine should be pale like sherry. Try the following:—

Tartaric acid	...	...	...	3iv.
Coarse powdered sugar	...	...	...	3iv.
Powdered saffron	...	...	...	gr. v.
Capsicin	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Gingerin	...	...	...	gr. v.
Ess. lemon	...	...	...	℥xxx.

Rub the capsicin, gingerin and ess. lemon with the sugar and mix with the tartaric acid. Direct a pint of hot water to be added to this quantity.

258/31. *Lewis.*—Foot-rot Ointment.—Your sample is similar to the following:—

Cupri subacet.	...	...	...	3iv.
Ferri sesquioxidi	...	...	...	3iv.
Ac. acetic. glac.	...	...	...	3ij.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3j. vel q.s.

Mix into a smooth soft paste.

260/3. *I. D.*—The Powder for Braxy in sheep, of which an ounce is to be given to each sheep every 4 weeks during the autumn months, is as follows:—

Mag. sulph. exsicc.	...	...	...	3ii
Potas. nitr.	...	...	...	3j
Carbo. ligni	...	...	...	q.

M.

3/57. *Helvetia* (Geneva)—Depilatory.—The following is considered the best and safest formula:—

Sulphide of barium in fine powder	2 oz.
Starch powder	3 oz.

Mix.

Make into a paste with water at the time of using, spread over the part required, and remove at the end of five or ten minutes.



3/14. *Horse-powder*.—The following gives a **Horse-powder** more like sample than what you have been making:—

Powdered gentian ...	...	...	3iv.
Powdered foenugreek ...	...	...	5ij.
Powdered liquorice... ..	...	...	5v.
Powdered aniseed ...	...	...	5ij.
Sulphur ...	...	...	5ij.

Mix.

4/73. *C.C.*—It is unlikely that the **Gazogene-crystals** contained alum; can you send us a sample to test?

*Ignoramus, Carnubia, and J. P.* send us anonymous communications. The verses contributed by the last-named are not good enough for the *C. & D.*

248/73. *Sauce*—**Sauce** of the Worcester type.—See *C. & D.*, March 27, 1897, page 526.

5/1. *F. J. D.* (Cairo).—To **Sterilise the Solutions** you have dispensed place the bottles, with the necks lightly plugged with cotton-wool, in a water-bath, and let them remain there for an hour.

249/39. *Bogie*.—**Digestive Pills**.—We should modify your formula thus:—

Ext. aloes aq. ...	...	...	gr. j.
Ext. anthem. ...	...	...	gr. j.
Pil. rhei co. ...	...	...	gr. ij.
Pulv. capsici ...	...	...	gr. ½
Ol. carni ...	...	...	℥i ½

M. Ft. pil. j.

249/2. *Mollie*.—**Foot-rot Liquid**.—Your sample is composed of liq. antim. chlor. and acid. acetic. fort. in about equal proportions.

251/46. *Rusticus*.—If you use the old-fashioned milk of sulphur in your hair-restorer you will not be troubled with the sulphur floating.

253/35. *Souter*.—A fish-glue such as Le Page's liquid glue is what you require for sticking patterns of cloth on cardboard. It is made from fish-skins.

249/22. *J. Z. F.*—**Naval-dispensership Examination**.—The books you used for the Minor examination are what you will require for this examination, but you will have observed that some knowledge of therapeutics is necessary. Read Murrell's book for that. You will notice that you must hold either the Major or Minor certificate. See *C. & D.*, September 4, 1897, page 422. A vacancy is now awaiting to be filled.

247/67. *L. P. S. I.*—One pill is not enough for accurate analysis. There is no quinine or morphia present in the rheumatic and neuralgic pill.

9/62. *E. H. L.*—The latest edition of Cooley's Cyclopædia is dated 1892. We do not know whether there is any probability of a new edition. You must ask the publishers', Messrs. J. & A. Churchill, 7 Great Marlborough Street, W.

259/8. *Mona*.—Your **Poultry-spice** is made from such a formula as this:—

Cayenne pepper ...	...	...	1 oz.
Caraway ...	...	...	2 oz.
Fenugreek ...	...	...	2 oz.
Aniseed ...	...	...	2 oz.
Liquorice ...	...	...	3 oz.
Linseed meal... ..	...	...	6 oz.

Mix.

218/16. *Caput*.—Peroxide of hydrogen would be the best bleach to use on hair that is turning grey, but presents a dirty white colour.

251/32. *Dunbar*.—We know of no book dealing specially with **Leather-dyeing**. Aniline colours are now generally employed, as they can be used without any previous preparation of the leather. For **Red** "leather-red" of different shades is used—"G" (light), "GR" (medium), "R" (dark), "GG" (yellowish reds), "Red S" (pinks). For **Yellow** "phosphine" (known as "leather-yellow") is employed,

giving a reddish yellow; an impure phosphine, "Philadelphia yellow," gives a gold orange colour. "Corallin" gives a pure **Orange**. For **Light Blue** "Marine blue" (known also as "water blue") is used; to produce **Dark Blue** this is followed by a "topping" of "nigrosin." **Green** is obtained with "methyl green," and **Violet** with "methyl violet," the "R" variety giving red shades, whilst the "B" variety gives blue shades.

247/11. *Klondike*.—Try hot bathing or steaming the face, and the use of tar-soap for the case of acne you mention.

251/43. *Guy Fawkes*.—You can make cases for holding coloured fires of any desired size by wrapping brown paper round a stick, fastening the layers of paper together with glue. Have you an explosives licence?

66/42. *Carboy*.—**Colours for carboys**. (1) **Chameleon**. Dissolve 5ij. fluoresceine in 5 oz. of S.V.R., and dilute to the required volume. This gives a yellow solution by transmitted light, with an intense green by reflected light. (2) **Jubilee-coloured**.—Three colours in one bottle are produced by colouring glycerine blue with an aniline colour, and heavy petroleum oil red with alkanet. First put the coloured glycerine in the carboy, then very carefully a layer of water, and, lastly, the coloured oil.

47/12. *E. L.*—For what purpose do you want the black lacquer?

3/36. *Horse-dealer*.—We have known some of the horse-dealing fraternity use a mixture of ferri peroxid. hyd. and pulv. zingib as a **Pick-me-up for Overdone Horses**. The dose of the mixture being a tablespoonful.

247/68. *W. R. A*.—**Silvering Glass**.—See *C. & D.*, April 10, 1897, page 599. With practice and patience there is no reason why you should not succeed.

251/71. *W. W.*—**Cold-cream with Lanoline**.—See *C. & D.*, January 9, 1897, page 51.

250/37. *Ulexine*.—(1) Your query is too enigmatical for definite reply. (2) **Oil of Spike** is oil of lavender-spike, but turpentine with a trace of lavender or oil of amber (sometimes coloured red) does duty in many parts of the country.

251/60. *H. S*.—**Black Ink for Rubber Type**:—

Nigrosin W. ...	...	...	5ij.
Acetic acid ...	...	...	5v.
Glycerine ...	...	...	5iv. 5ij.
Rectified spirit ...	...	...	5v.
Distilled water ...	...	...	5v.

Mix.

249/36. *Iridine*.—**Cheap Sachet-powder**.—There are several formulæ in *C. & D.*, June 19, 1897, page 983.

249/40. *Terebinthinæ*.—**Brown Boot-polish**:—

Carnauba wax ...	...	...	10½ oz.
Turpentine ...	...	...	35 oz.
Resin soap ...	...	...	4¼ oz.
Nankin brown ...	...	...	10 grs.
Oil of mirbane ...	...	...	30 drops.
Water ...	...	...	35 oz.

Dissolve the wax in the turpentine and the resin soap in the water, mix thoroughly and add the Nankin brown previously dissolved in 5ss. S.V.R. and the oil of mirbane.

11/28. *Thorax*.—We gave the address of a bogus-diploma dealer in notes published in our issues of July 3 and September 11 last. We do not know whether the business is still being carried on, but if it is we do not suppose the conductors would boggle over a dental diploma if they saw a chance of securing your friend's "5l. or 10l." Advise him to have nothing to do with the swindle. To use it must degrade him morally, and may get him into trouble legally.

11/42. *Nemo*.—If you will read an article on the manufacture of aerated waters published in our number of June 12 last, and then discuss the matter with one of the manufacturers named, you will be on the way to acquire the pre-



liminary knowledge necessary to enable you to start in the business in a small way.

249/3. *Daisy*.—From an examination of your **Harness-polish** we conclude it has been made by dissolving aniline black and blue in a liquid made by boiling together  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of shellac and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of borax in  $\frac{1}{2}$  gal. of water and slightly scenting with sassafras. A few experiments on these lines should yield you a similar preparation.

250/50. *H. H. & Son*.—The chief ingredient in the sample pill you send for **Jaundice in Foxhounds** is podophyllin. Each pill weighing about 1 dr. contains about 2 gr. of podophyllin, and is made up with liquorice-powder and syrup.

249/11. *F. W. F.*—The **Ringworm-ointment** is ungu. hydrarg. nit. It has either been coloured or has grown dark by age.

5/74. *Hypo*.—**Paris White**, better known as plaster of Paris or gypsum, is much used for hardening water for brewing-purposes. The pre-eminence of Burton-on-Trent as a brewing-centre depends on the fact that the waters of that locality, derived from the Keuper marl, containing considerable quantities of gypsum and other saline ingredients, produce a beer of superior quality. The necessary mineral salts are, in consequence, added to pure neutral waters to make one approaching in composition to Burton water. The most satisfactory method of thus hardening is to run the supply-water slowly through a tank containing lumps of gypsum, and afterwards add certain proportions of kainite (a neutral salt, consisting of potassium magnesium sulphate combined with magnesium chloride) and common salt, according to the composition of the original water.

8/71. *A. E. M.*—There is nothing very "new" about the **Mixture for Epilepsy**. Each teaspoonful contains 15 gr. of bromide of potassium with a little spirit of chloroform and syrup of orange.

6/24. *S. D. S.*—**Asthma-powder** like your sample:—

Stramonium (coarse powder)	...	...	3iv.
Camphor	...	...	3ss.
Potassium nitrate	...	...	3iss.
Lobelia (coarse powder)	...	...	3ij.

Mix.

10/17. *J. B.*—**Manufacture of Explosives**.—The best book on this subject is by Dr. Guttman. It is published by Whittaker in two volumes, and deals fully with the history, chemistry, and manufacture of all explosives.

*A Manager of a Limited Company* (Newcastle) is requested to send his name and address.

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

*Subjoined are notes and formulæ received from subscribers. Similar information is always welcome.*

### Spirit for Perfumes.

SIR,—If "Aniline" would use French grape-spirit instead of S.V.R. for perfume I am sure he would find it satisfactory, as it is practically odourless. It is a little dearer than S.V.R., but the advantage gained more than compensates for the extra outlay.

47 Monkwell Street, E.C.

P. B. FALLON.

**Vogel's Combined Fixing and Toning Solution.** It is as follows:—

Sodii hyposulph.	...	...	771 gr.
Ammon. sulphocyanid.	...	...	84.8 "
Pb. acet.	...	...	30.8 "
Alum.	...	...	23.1 "
Ac. cit.	...	...	23.1 "
Pb. nit.	...	...	30.8 "
Aq. ad	...	...	7 oz.
$\frac{1}{2}$ oz. gold solution (1—200).			

—L. MOORE-CARDWELL (Brighouse).

## INFORMATION WANTED.

*The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.*

260/65. What is Allingham's ointment?

11/1. Gelose or gelosine: where obtainable?

19/38. Who are the London soap-makers who put "Ivanhoe Bouquet" on the market?

## Coming Events.

*We insert notices of association and society meetings in this section free if they are sent to us, on postcards, by the Wednesday of the week before the meetings are to be held.*

### Saturday, November 27.

*Metropolitan College of Pharmacy.* Fourth annual dinner, in the Royal Venetian Chamber, Holborn Restaurant, at 6.30 for 7 P.M. Chairman, Mr. Thomas Tyrer, F.I.C., F.C.S. *Pharmaceutical Football Club v. Swallow F.C.*, at Acton, on ground adjoining G.W.R. Station. Kick-off at 3 P.M. Train from Gower Street at 1.57 P.M.

### Monday, November 29.

*Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland*, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin. Evening meeting at 8 P.M. Lecture by Dr. E. MacDowell Cosgrove on "The Zoo: its Inmates and Outmates."

*Society of Arts*, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., at 8 P.M. Cantor Lectures. "Guttapercha," by Mr. Eugene F. A. Obach, Ph.D., F.C.S. Lecture I.

### Tuesday, November 30.

*Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association*, 36 York Place, at 11 A.M. Chairman's opening address, report from Committee on proposed prize-scheme, &c.

*Leicester Chemists' Social Union.* Smoking-concert at the Wyvern Hotel, Leicester (near Midland Station), at 8.30 P.M.

*Bradford and District Chemists' Association*, Great Northern Victoria Hotel, at 9 P.M. Messrs. Nicholson on "Photography and Photographic Materials."

*Liverpool Chemists' Association.* Smoking-concert at the Alexandra Hotel, Dale Street, at 8 P.M.

### Wednesday, December 1.

*Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association*, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9 P.M. Musical and social evening. Mr. W. Jones (President of the P.A.T.A.) in the chair

*Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy*, Newburg Hall, at 9 P.M. Social evening. Chairman, Mr. W. W. Savage.

*Newcastle-upon-Tyne and District Chemists' Association*, Metropole Hotel, West Clayton Street, at 8 P.M. "Consideration of the Suggested Amendments of the Pharmacy Acts." The discussion will be opened by Mr. F. C. Long, Ph.C., who will also submit a resolution.

### Thursday, December 2.

*Chemical Society*, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. Ballot for the election of Fellows. Paper on "Collie's Space-formula for Benzene," by Mr. F. E. Matthews, Ph.D.

*Chemists' Assistants' Association.* Annual Conversazione at Portman Rooms, W. Dancing at 9 o'clock. Single ticket, 3s. 6d.; double ticket, 5s. 6d. To be obtained from the hon. secretaries, Mr. C. E. Robinson, 180 New Bond Street W.; Mr. J. W. Gamble, 7 Vere Street, W.; or any of the stewards.

*North Stafford and District Chemists' Association*, Copeland Arms Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, at 6.30 P.M. sharp. Paper by Mr. Weston Poole on "That it is to the advantage of all chemists to join (1) the Pharmaceutical Society, and (2) a Local Association."

### Friday, December 3.

*Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy.* Annual dinner in the Venetian Chamber, Holborn Restaurant, at 7 P.M. sharp. The silver medal for the past session will be presented by Mr. T. Skewes-Cox, M.P.

*Aberdeen Junior Chemists' Association*, 21 Bridge Street, at 9.30 P.M. Mr. F. J. Hambly, F.I.C., on "Solutions."

### Saturday, December 4.

"Allenburys" Cricket Club. Ballad concert at the Bishopsgate Institute, Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., at 8 P.M. Tickets 2s. (reserved) and 1s. from Mr. A. E. Bradbury, Hon. Sec., c/o Allen & Hanburys (Limited), or at the doors.